

FREE

Kent on Sunday

www.kentnews.co.uk November 16, 2014

Mid edition No 634

POLITICS

Ukip closes in on by-election success

Polling stations open
this Thursday

CAMPAIGN

Get behind our high streets

Shop Local in the lead
up to the festive season

AWARDS

KoS secures top media prize

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Do not underestimate the power of your vote

AFTER all the discussions, all the hype and all the high profile visits, this week will see the eyes of the political world turn to the by-election for Rochester and Strood.

Its significance should not be underestimated. Not just because it could potentially deliver Kent its first Ukip MP, but because it could underline Ukip's credentials as a party which is capable of delivering, arguably, the balance of power.

Ukip are not going to be vying to lead a Government at May's general election, but success on Thursday will make the Liberal Democrats shift even more uncomfortably in their seats than they do now.

For it will hasten a growing theory that any coalition next year may well find the Conservatives and Ukip finally having to come to some sort of agreement and a sharing of power.

Yet, as we

report inside, despite all the headlines, the countless visits by the prime minister and senior cabinet figures, few would bet against more than half of registered voters heading to the polls this week.

With Ukip's success being put down to activating those who were disillusioned by the current political offering and those who wouldn't normally vote, it would be a pretty distressing state of affairs to think that still only 50 per cent of voters can be bothered to go and play a key role in dictating the future of this country. And it really could be that significant.

So if you're in Rochester and Strood, don't make the mistake of thinking 'it won't make any difference' because the outcome of Thursday's poll could be significant and the shockwaves felt around the country for years to come.

Enjoy your weekend.



Editor **Chris Britcher**

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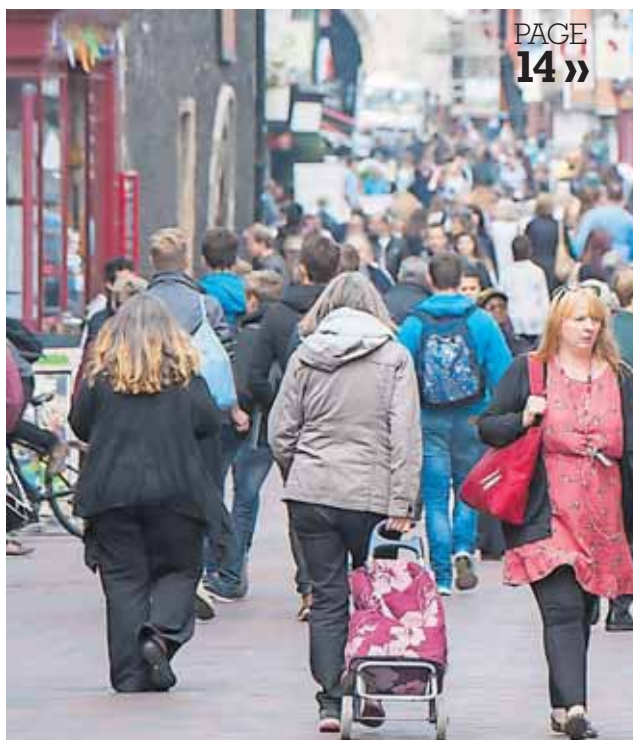
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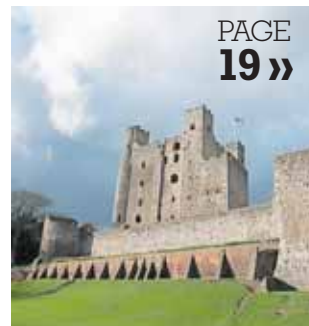
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Published in Kent and printed by Archant Print, division of Archant Community Media Limited (Co Reg No 19300). Registered Office: Prospect House, Rouen Road, Norwich NR1 1RE

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Low turn-out expected for Ukip's big by-election

By Sarah Linney

sarah.linney@archant.co.uk

PUNDITS say there could be a turn-out of just 50 per cent for what has become one of the highest profile by-elections in years.

The defection from the Conservatives by Mark Reckless – opting to join Nigel Farage's Ukip – earlier this year forced a by-election in the Tory strong-hold of the Rochester and Strood constituency.

Voters will head to the polls this Thursday.

The result is expected somewhere between 2am and 4am on Friday morning – full details of which you will be able to find on our website www.kentnews.co.uk.

Such has been the swing of support for Ukip, the party is now favourite to win the seat – with Mr Reckless now in new colours – that some bookmakers are no longer taking bets on the outcome.

John Fitzgibbon, lecturer in politics and international relations at Canterbury Christ Church University, told KoS: "Ukip are going to win by ten per cent.

"People want to kick the government. Mark Reckless could be anybody and people would still



D-DAY: Can Mark Reckless romp to victory under his new colours in Thursday's election?

vote in favour of Ukip. They are tired of the status quo."

The latest pre-election polls have consistently put Ukip at least 10 per cent ahead of the Tories.

Paddy Power is currently offering odds of 1/100 on a Ukip victory. That means you'd have to wager £100 on a Ukip win to pocket just £1 in winnings.

The same bookmaker is offering odds of 14-1 on the Conservative candidate Kelly Tolhurst providing a shock win.

It is all the more remarkable given Mr Reckless secured a 10,000-majority when he won the seat at the last general election in 2010.

Yet the predictions of political pundits – featured on pages 19-21 of this week's edition – are that despite the wall-to-wall coverage and visits by a number of political leaders, the turn-out could be lower than at a General Election.

Prime minister David Cameron has made a number of visits to Medway in a bid to whip up

support, well aware that a heavy defeat will not only damage his party, six months away from the General Election, but also undermine his position as party leader.

Perhaps as surprising has been the failure of Labour to make in-roads or capitalise from the right-wing vote being split.

For full coverage on the night of the Rochester and Strood by-election see our website at www.kentnews.co.uk.

Pulling down the tolls may add time to trips via Dartford Crossing

WITH the new remote payment system for using the Dartford Crossing coming into force two weeks today, further details were released this week about just how the existing payment booths will be removed.

Work to remove the booths and improve the road layout on approach to the crossing will begin on November 28 – two days before the Dart Charge is introduced.

Designed to ease congestion on the busy Thames crossing, from 6am on November 30 motorists will not have to stop and pay, but instead will have their number plates captured on film. They will then have 24-hours to pay via the internet, by phone or at Payzone terminals in shops.

With the fee going up to £2.50, users are being urged that setting up an account will save around a third on each crossing.

The new payment arrangements will signal the start of major work to improve the road layout at the crossing with 27 lanes of traffic

reduced to four in each direction and a new safety system of traffic signals and barriers on the approach to the tunnels northbound, which will prevent over-height vehicles from entering the tunnels, hold traffic in case of an incident or congestion in the tunnel, and allow the safe release of vehicles under escort.

The roadworks will continue until spring 2015.

Until then, drivers can expect some delays but all work is being planned to minimise disruption. During construction temporary speed limits and road layouts will be in use so drivers should follow instructions on road signs.

Erwan Huerre, of Connect Plus which is overseeing the changes, said: "Initially, we'll work to demolish the southbound booths and drivers should see the benefits travelling over the QEII Bridge after the first weekend. On the north-bound side, the works will take longer because we need to construct a new tunnel safety system."

Arrests after 'brothels' are raided in trafficking probe

FIVE suspected brothels have been raided by police as part of a national crackdown on human trafficking.

The campaign is designed to target criminals involved in exploiting and trafficking people across the county and to provide support to vulnerable victims.

Raids took place at venues in Canterbury, the Medway towns, Maidstone and Sevenoaks.

Five people were arrested. All were released on bail.

Assistant Chief Constable Matthew Horne said: "While part of our work was to investigate those suspected organised crime gangs who exploit vulnerable people, a significant point was to ensure victims know where to turn to and how they can access a range of support to escape from the distressing situation."

Operation Stack rolls out as dockers in France walk out

THE M20 saw the dreaded Operation Stack brought into force on Friday after industrial action in France caused major problems for cross-Channel traffic.

Part of the coastbound M20 between junction eight and nine became a lorry park as all the major ferry firms found their services were subject to delays and cancellations.

It was caused by unions in

France meeting in Lille to discuss the future of jobs at the port of Calais.

Operation Stack is where parts of the M20 are used to queue lorries that are travelling towards the Continent, to avoid causing gridlock across Kent's road network.

The lorry stacking measure had been lifted by 5pm on Friday afternoon.



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Water firm's £500k fine for sewage pollution

SOUTHERN Water has been fined £500,000 after untreated sewage polluted watercourses in Whitstable and Herne Bay.

The pollution left local wildlife dead, after there were problems at a Southern Water pumping station.

An Environment Agency investigation found that the company discharged untreated sewage into the Swale-cliffe Brook, polluting a 1.2 kilometre stretch of river.

The brook runs through a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI).

The spillage also left restrictions on bathing beaches in the area, while shellfish growers were warned not to sell any shellfish harvested locally ahead of the Whitstable Oyster Festival.

Southern Water chief executive Matthew Wright said: "We are deeply sorry."



CONTESTANT: Felipe Alviar-Baquero

Triple investigation into how ferry smashed into sea wall at Port of Dover

By Maria Chiorando

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THREE investigations into the cross-Channel ferry crash that left four people hospitalised are now under way, one week on from the incident.

The accident happened last Sunday, November 9, when the DFDS ferry – the Dover Seaways – travelling from Dover to Dunkirk, with 320 passengers on board, hit a harbour wall as it looked to enter open waters at around 8am.

Emergency services, including three ambulances, four paramedic cars and a hazardous area response team (HART), were called to the scene, as well as the port's own police.

A spokesman for the South East Ambulance Service (SECAMB) confirmed that no-one was seriously injured but that four people needed treatment.

The Port of Dover, DFDS and the Marine Accident Investigation Branch (MAIB) have all launched their own enquiries, with the MAIB



HARBOUR: The ferry hit a wall

describing the accident as 'heavy contact between a roll-on-roll-off passenger vessel and the harbour wall'.

DFDS has confirmed the ferry involved is currently in dry dock in

Rotterdam where it is being assessed and repaired.

The firm told KoS: "We're awaiting confirmation of when the ship will be back in service which we hope will be at the end of next week but we will verify timings once they have been confirmed."

A spokesman for the Port of Dover said: "We are doing our own internal investigation, which is normal maritime practice."

"We do an internal investigation with every incident."

It added incidents of this kind are "very rare".

DFDS agreed. A spokesman said: "Ferry travel continues to be one of the safest modes of transport."

"We cannot speculate on the cause of the incident at this stage. We are conducting our own internal investigation as well as working with the appropriate maritime authorities to support with their investigation."

The Port of Dover was also unable to comment while the investigation is on-going.

Felipe lives to fight on in the Apprentice

APPRENTICE hopeful Felipe Alviar-Baquero once again dodged the firing finger of Lord Sugar on the hit BBC TV show but the bookmakers have made him hot favourite to be booted out next week.

The solicitor from Kings Hill, and originally from Colombia, has become a popular figure among his fellow contestants.

And despite his team losing this week's task, he avoided being one of the three called in to face the chop.

The Apprentice sets out to find a business partner for Lord Sugar. By tackling weekly tasks, the contestants hope to land a £250,000 investment in a 50/50 company with the peer.

Mr Alviar-Baquero has been described as "a gentleman" on the show and his popularity with his rivals appears to ensure he is being saved the risk of being 'fired' from the process.

One of those rival contestants is Solomon Akhtar, who attended Skinners' in Tunbridge Wells.

He, on the other hand, has been named as favourite to win the competition, with bookmakers making him 2/1 favourite, ahead of other popular candidates such as Australian Mark Wright and Katie Bulmer-Cooke.

The show continues at 9pm on Wednesday.

Designer outlet takes stride to expansion

PLANS to increase the size of the Ashford Designer Outlet have taken a step forward after a planning application was submitted to the council.

The popular shopping site hopes to double in size over the years, as it looks to capitalise on its growing popularity.

Planning chiefs will now consider the proposals which would give permission for the demolition of part of the existing outlet and the construction of buildings and structures to provide an extension to the retail park.

Plans include changing the layout of the current car park and building more retail and restaurant units. The application is subject to an environmental assessment.

As part of the planning process, the council says it is seeking comments from members of the public on the proposals.

The application can be viewed online at <http://planning.ashford.gov.uk>. Deadline for comments is December 7.

A2 roadworks finish three weeks early

MAJOR repairs on the coastbound A2 near Canterbury finished this week – three weeks ahead of schedule.

Sections of the road surface along a six-mile part of the coastbound A2 were replaced and maintenance work was carried out at the same time.

The work took place over six weekends and involved the coastbound carriageway being closed between Brenley Corner, where it joins the M2, and the A28 turn for Wincheap.

It had caused major delays in and around Canterbury and sparked anger from residents as motorists tried to take shortcuts.

Highways Agency asset manager Kevin Bown said: "We would like to thank everyone for their patience over the last six weekends."

"We have successfully completed the work to repair sections of the carriageway and also carried out routine maintenance to reduce the need for further closures of this section of the A2 in the future."

Warning over scam 'dry cleaning' bills

PUBS and restaurants are being warned to be on the look-out for a scam where tricksters try to claim money for dry cleaning bills.

Officers in the west of the county say they have received reports that a man has been visiting licensed premises asking for money, claiming drinks have been spilled by staff over his partner's clothes.

Incidents took place in Lamberhurst, Goudhurst, Matfield and Tunbridge Wells.

The fraudster arrives and presents a cleaning bill as proof and demands payments.

Sergeant Andy Miller said: "We believe that these incidents all involve the same person and because the amount of money being requested is relatively small, it is likely that other businesses who may have been targeted may have paid out to avoid any hassle."

Premises are advised to report any incident to police or notify them if they believe they have been the victim of a claim.

Kent on Sunday scoops leading regional newspaper award at Brighton ceremony

We're named EDF Energy's London and the south's best free weekly and reporter highly praised

KENT On Sunday scooped a major regional media award this week after it was named the best free weekly newspaper across London and the south.

The EDF Energy London and South of England Media Awards are acknowledged as the most prestigious for the region, with journalists gathering for a special ceremony to reveal the winners on Thursday at the Amex Stadium – home of Brighton & Hove Albion.

Kent on Sunday beat off tough opposition from the Ascot, Windsor and Eton Express, Camden New Journal and The Wharf.

And there was further success too for KoS senior reporter Sarah Linney who was highly commended in the feature writer of the year award.

She made the final shortlist of five from nearly 30 contenders.

KoS editor Chris Britcher said: "We are absolutely delighted to win this award.

"We set out to provide the people



SUCCESS: Editor Chris Britcher (centre) pick up award on Thursday. KoS' Sarah Linney (above right) celebrates being 'highly commended'

of Kent with an in-depth look at the key issues across the county each and every week and work tirelessly to achieve that.

"To receive this recognition is extremely gratifying.

"I'd like to pay tribute to my colleagues, past and present, who have all played a major role in this success, and, of course to our loyal advertisers and readers. This has been a real team effort and I'm ex-



tremely proud of everyone's key contribution."

Other local winners included the Kent & Sussex Courier, which was named best weekly paid-for title, and the Kent Messenger Group for its online news service. The Sevenoaks Chronicle's Sean-Paul Doran was named newcomer of the year, while the KM's Lesley Bellew was named feature writer of the year.

The awards were handed out by London 2012 Paralympian Lauren Steadman and Andrew Brown,

EDF Energy's brand sustainability and external communications director.

Mr Brown said: "Over the past decade these awards have become a benchmark and a seal of approval for the great journalism produced across the region. Congratulations to all the winners."

The event was supported by media website HoldtheFrontPage.

Its publisher, Paul Linford, added: "The London and South of England awards have always been highly sought-after within the region and after ten years it's great to see the level of entries continuing to grow.

"As usual the standard of those entries was incredibly high and choosing the winners was a tough challenge for the judges."

■ It was only the first of two awards events taking place on Thursday – the other was the eagerly anticipated Kent Life & Kent on Sunday Food and Drink Awards. See page 9 for full details.

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WINNERS: The awards recognised the best of the county's food and drink and were held at the Tudor Park Hotel in Bearsted near Maidstone. The awards were presented by Kaddy Lee-Preston

Celebrating cream of the crop at our food and drink awards

by Jamie Weir

Jamie.Weir@archant.co.uk

FOOD glorious food, there's nothing quite like the best of our county's produce.

And this week, Kent on Sunday, alongside its sister publication, Kent Life, paid tribute to the cream of the county's crop at our annual Food and Drink Awards.

Top producers battled it out to be crowned the best in Kent across several categories which included Newcomer of the Year, Butcher of the Year and Drink Producer of the Year. As well as the prized trophies for top restaurant and pub.

The 12 awards featured an array of the county's top food and drink stars, showcasing their best products and services.

Nominated by readers of both publications, with the winners then decided from a shortlist by a judging panel.

And in front of a packed audience in the glitzy surroundings of the Tudor Park Hotel in Bearsted, near Maidstone, the winners were announced to rapturous applause.

The awards were presented by popular local weather presenter, Kaddy Lee-Preston. The star admitted this was her final public appearance before giving birth to her first child. She once again dazzled on the stage, despite admitting she was now

two days past her due date.

Winner of the Food and Drink hero of the year, for her services over the year's and commitments to championing local produce, was Amanda Cottrell OBE. She said her passion was the great food the farming community in Kent created.

She told KoS: "I'm absolutely obsessed by Kent, and the farming community in the county. We are still the Garden of England, with such wonderful diversity in what we produce in the county. We have great fruits, vegetables and a fantastic coastline which brings some world class fresh seafood.

"It feels absolutely amazing to win the award. The rural community means more to me than anything, and it's a great honour to be voted food and drink hero of the year. The award will take pride of place in my house."

Chapter One in Locksbottom was a double winner – being named restaurant of the year and Andrew McLeish the top chef.

He told KoS that using locally produced food was the key to his success, turning good dishes into great ones.

He said: "We absolutely love using local food and drink in the restaurant. I've noticed that as farmers grow more passionate about creating local produce it's becoming easier to get really great quality food. We don't have to work too hard to turn this great produce into some-



PUTTING ON THE GLITZ: A red carpet welcome for the best in Kent

thing really special for our diners."

Storming on to the scene to secure the newcomer of the year was The Milk House. The pub, which is set in a 16th century hall house, has become central to its local community in Sissinghurst. Something general manager Joe McAuley said was one of the pillars to its success.

He told KoS: "It's a humble experience to win this award. We started the business from scratch as there was a huge gap in the village, and that was a real, old fashioned community pub. We wanted to embrace the community and really become

part of it, and we have managed to be successful in doing so. We involve ourselves in lots of different aspects of the community, helping with the village fete, and other events throughout the year. It's part of our guiding philosophy, and what I think has helped us to win this award."

And the theme of community ran deep through all of the winners, many of whom said that their focus was on ensuring they served local Kentish residents only the very best. That, for all, meant showcasing the incredible food and drink which our county produces.

THIS YEAR'S WINNERS

Butcher of the Year – Butcher of Brogdale, sponsored by Bybrook Barn Garden Centre.

Chef of the Year – Andrew McLeish, Chapter One, sponsored by Britelite.

Customer Service of the Year – Holwood Farm Shop, sponsored by Fenwick Canterbury.

Drink Producer of the Year – Hush Heath Winery, sponsored by Anchor & Hope.

Farm Shop of the Year – Harvel House, sponsored by Winterdale Cheesemakers.

Farmers' Market of the Year – Shipbourne, sponsored by My Ferry Link.

Food Producer of the Year – Mockbeggar Farm, sponsored by Perrys Chartered Accountants

Newcomer of the Year – The Milk House, sponsored by The Canterbury Auction Galleries.

Pub of the Year – Three Tuns, sponsored by Eastwell Manor.

Restaurant of the Year – Chapter One, sponsored by Rix & Kay Solicitors.

Tea Shop of the Year – Sandhurst Tea Room, sponsored by Gerald Lukehurst Furniture.

Kent Food and Drink Hero of the Year – Amanda Cottrell OBE, sponsored by Faversham.org



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The refuse ruining our countryside

Fly-tipping is once again in the spotlight after it was blamed indirectly for the death of an 88-year-old woman last week. **Sarah Linney** looks at what appears to be a growing problem...

A PILE of rubbish dumped in the countryside. A TV discarded on a grass verge on a housing estate. Electrical goods chucked in a lake, the wires a lethal trap for the wildlife swimming close by, blissfully unaware of the danger until they are caught and can't get out.

Fly-tipping is dirty, lazy and antisocial - we all know that - except, seemingly, those who do it. But this week it has come under the spotlight again after having far more sinister consequences.

Actor Michael Fenton Stevens is blaming fly-tipping for indirectly contributing to the death of his mother Olive after her car got stuck on a country lane where rubbish had been dumped.

In a bizarre and horrifying accident in Skeet Hill Lane, Orpington, on Thursday last week, the 88-year-old died after a man who had stopped to help her reversed her car for her but accidentally knocked her over.

He was arrested for dangerous driving, but Mr Fenton Stevens, who lives in Tunbridge Wells, told a national newspaper: "We don't hold any ill feelings or malice towards the driver.

"But I do feel resentment for whoever thought it was OK to just throw rubbish on a road.

"They think that it's only a cost to the council to clean up, but this shows there are human consequences. What if it had been a bus filled with schoolchildren which had not been able to stop in time?"

Hilary Newport, director of the

Kent branch of the Campaign to Protect Rural England, says fly-tipped rubbish poses all sorts of immediate dangers to humans and wildlife - as well as damaging the environment in the long term.

"Broken glass can cut children and animals - I've had to have my dog stitched up a few times, and a colleague knew of a horse which died of an intestinal blockage because it ate a crisp packet," Mrs Newport said.

"Fly-tipped rubbish will very likely be causing completely preventable pollution. Take fridges. The refrigerants inside them are very harmful to the atmosphere - these are the chemicals that contributed to the holes in the ozone layer and the reason why CFCs are largely banned for domestic stuff.

"Or TVs. There are heavy metals in a TV. You would not want your kids playing around with the inside of a TV. These are things that don't need to be out there."

And she warned that if you are having work done on your house or garden and the contractor offers to take the waste away for you, it is vital to ensure they have a licence to do so - or you could be liable for any rubbish they dump.

"The readers of Kent on Sunday read it because they give a damn about Kent, but through no fault of their own they might find themselves contributing to the problem," Mrs Newport explained.

"You should ask to see evidence that the company is a licensed waste contractor. They should have a certificate, or there is a list of registered carriers on the Environment Agency website."



The temptation to dump rubbish sometimes arises because, unlike ordinary household waste which is taken away for free by district and borough councils, business waste and very large items of household waste have to be paid for.

But Mrs Newport says that is not an excuse.

"If you've the wherewithal to take your fridge to the woods and dump it, you can take it to the dump," she said.

"Otherwise the rest of us have to pick up the tab. If waste is dumped on privately owned land, the landowner is liable if they can't prove who dumped it, and it could cost hundreds of pounds to get rid of.

"It's really antisocial - and demonstrates the thoughtlessness of people towards their surroundings. Why are people valuing what they have so little?"

"Commercial operators and builders need to take responsibility for their actions."

Robin Edwards, director of the south east branch of the CLA, which represents landowners, farmers and rural businesses, estimated the annual cost to taxpayers and landowners of clearing up fly-tipping in England at between £86 million and £186 million.

He says anyone who sees people dumping rubbish can help by report-

TOP FIVE MOST FREQUENTLY FLY-TIPPED ITEMS:

- Household rubbish
- White goods
- Builders' waste
- Garden waste
- Commercial waste

ing it to their district or borough council.

"Witnesses are vitally important in tackling this problem," Mr Edwards said.

"I urge people to report any incident they see as soon as possible. It is particularly useful if you can make a note of the time and date, any description of the people and vehicles, including registration numbers, and a description of the waste dumped.

"Photographs can also be very useful, but only try to take a photo if it is safe to do so."

Ashford council's portfolio holder for the environment, Jessamy Blandford, said the council had seen an increase in fly-tipping in 2013, but a slight decrease this year - from 873 instances between January and October last year to 853.

The punishment for fly-tipping can



Cllr Jessamy Blandford



Hilary Newport



Robin Edwards CLA

be up to a £50,000 fine or five years in prison - but with this seemingly not enough to deter offenders, the council says it is trying to find new ways to tackle the problem.

"Fly-tipping is illegal, an eyesore and a burden on taxpayers," Cllr Blandford said.

"We would like to remind everyone living in the borough that they have a duty of care with their waste, and must dispose of it responsibly or face prosecution."



'Better to know' campaign aims to help raise awareness of HIV

By Molly Kersey
molly.kersey@archant.co.uk

WHILE HIV will always remain a sensitive subject, the way that it is viewed has now, thankfully, evolved.

No longer an unmentionable disease subject to hushed tones and sinister adverts, hard working activists and campaigners have helped make people more understanding and tolerant towards individuals with HIV.

A new campaign launched by Kent County Council and its partners aims to de-stigmatise HIV and AIDS and increase the number of people who are getting tested earlier for the virus - the message is simple early diagnosis not only helps control the spread of the infection it also gives those with HIV the best quality of life possible.

It will have a greater focus in the areas where rates of HIV diagnosis have been higher - Ashford, Medway, Gravesend and Dartford.

Individuals who are diagnosed early can gain a greater benefit from certain treatments, such as active anti-retroviral therapy (ART), meaning that they could gain a near-normal life span.

It can make a huge difference.

Once they are aware of the condi-

tion, as well as looking after their own health, people are then able to take steps to ensure they are not passing the virus on.

Over the last four years, there has been a consistent increase in the diagnosis of HIV among people aged 15 to 59 in Kent and Medway, with some 80 new cases being diagnosed each year.

Of these, half were diagnosed in the later stages of the disease.

The It's Better to Know campaign sees health providers banding together to tackle late diagnosis, which is one of the biggest contributing factors to illness and death for people with the disease.

The campaign is part of a wider two-year European project, which is being run in partnership with Canterbury Christ Church University, the Medway NHS Foundation Trust, Maidstone and Tunbridge Wells NHS Trust and Kent Community Health NHS Trust.

The project has attracted nearly £400,000 of European funding and seeks to understand the reasons behind late diagnosis of HIV and to promote HIV testing among people who may have placed themselves at risk, even if it was only on one occasion.

Research carried out has shown some changes in the people affected.

Commenting on the findings from the ongoing IMPRESS Health 2 Study, Dr Stephen O'Connor, of Can-

terbury Christ Church University, said: "The variety of people affected by HIV has changed dramatically since the virus first appeared.

"More heterosexuals were diagnosed with HIV in Kent and Medway in our study than men who have sex with men, 135 versus 88, but more worrying is the fact that heterosexuals, both males and females, are more likely to be diagnosed later with HIV than members of the 'better informed' gay community, 64.4 per cent versus 50 per cent, often because they, and

many healthcare professionals still associate HIV with gay men, intravenous drug users and sex workers.

"The study showed that GPs often fail to consider HIV as a possible cause for HIV related health problems and positively discourage some from having an HIV test at the appropriate time because of these outdated and misinformed assumptions."

The campaign will run for the whole of November and KCC public health consultant, Faiza Khan, said: "The number of cases of HIV in Kent

is rising and we know that part of the reason is because of late diagnosis.

"Simply put, people with HIV are more likely to pass it on and infect someone else if they are unaware they themselves are infected.

"Late diagnosis also reduces the chances of controlling the effects of HIV on the body.

"Early diagnosis is, therefore, vital if we are to control the spread of the infection and to give those living with HIV the best quality of life possible.

"We know the highest group where we see late diagnosis is the heterosexual community, particularly older men, and this is most prevalent in a number of our larger towns.

"I urge people who think they may have put themselves at risk of HIV at any time to act quickly and get a test done at one of the many clinics and centres across Kent and Medway."

Sexual health clinics, sometimes referred to as genito-urinary medicine (GUM) and contraception and sexual health (CASH) clinics throughout Kent and Medway offer regular, confidential walk-in services."

However, during November, a mobile clinic known as the Blue Bus will also be offering a confidential walk-in "60-second test" at various town centres.

To find out more about the campaign, visit its website at www.areyouatrisk.clinic.

WHAT IS HIV?

■ HIV stands for Human Immunodeficiency Virus. It attacks the body's immune system- the body's defence against diseases.

Without medication, people with HIV are at risk of developing AIDS.

■ HIV can be passed on through infected blood, semen, vaginal fluid, rectal secretion or breast milk.

The most common ways the virus is passed on are sexual intercourse without the use of a condom and sharing infected needles, syringes or other injecting equipment.

There is no cure, but treatment can keep the virus under control.

■ If HIV is diagnosed late, treatment is likely to be less effective.

■ The It's Better to Know campaign focus is based on hard hitting facts about HIV.

These are used as some of the headlines that will make people really think about if they have been put at risk in any way and include:

Each time you sleep with someone think about their past.

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CAMPAIGN: Help save your high street and 'Shop Local'

Launching a special Shop Local campaign in the run-up to Christmas, we encourage our readers to turn their focus on their local high street this year amid mounting fears they could crumble completely without our custom...

EVERYONE has seen the damage done to high streets as people take to the internet to shop online, or jump in the car to go to out of town shopping centres – and as the festive season is of vital importance to traders, now more than ever, your local shops need your support.

The message from around the county is clear – without your custom your high street will change for the worse, not only could businesses go under but your high street could lose its remaining independent traders as well as its hard-earned character.

In short, without your support the future for both your local shopping experience and the small retailer is bleak but in a bid to halt the decline Kent on Sunday is calling on readers to Shop Local – before it's too late.

As Kent Invicta Chamber of Commerce chief executive Jo James told KoS, changes in shopping trends are having a lasting impact on traditional shopping centres.

She said: "To me, it is essential that we all shop locally. With all the technology we have in tablets, smart phones and computers we can shop anytime, anywhere, and I do understand that is a lot more convenient than going into a town centre. In fact, it makes peoples lives easier, which, when we are all so time pressured, is important.

"However, we are seeing the decline of the high street as a result of that. There are empty shops where there should be busy traders, and where shops do exist, often they are nothing more than generic multiples. People complain about that, but if they want a successful and thriving high street, they need to be supportive of these traders.

"We are seeing a change in high streets at the moment, with the past five years taking a

toll on high streets, but if we continue with this trend, where will we be?"

The move towards using our everyday gadgets to order goods from online retailers has been growing at speed. Last year, internet sales in the crucial run up to Christmas for retailers accounted for 11.8 per cent of all retail spending nationally – a staggering £675.4 million on average each week during December.

And while many may choose to buy food online and get it delivered, much of the growth seems to have been on big seasonal present purchases with 35.1 per cent of the cash spent

“It is essential we all shop locally. With all the technology we have we can shop anytime, anywhere... however, we are seeing the decline of high streets as a result”

Jo James, chief executive of the Kent Invicta Chamber of Commerce

in online department stores. Online shopping had grown by 11.8 per cent compared with 2012 as well, showing that many are choosing to boot up their computers, rather than get in the car to go to their local town centres.

Ms James said: "Over the past five years as more and more of us have taken to using online shopping, we have already seen the impact on high streets. But if we don't change these shopping habits, it's going to get worse and we

KOS SAYS...

FOR many years, the fears of our high street were vocal rather than apparent – the internet a threat that had yet to draw blood.

A few years later, however, and the threat of online retailers and the squeeze of the recession, has decimated the traditional heart and souls of our communities.

We may have thought complaints ten

years ago were empty threats, but the reality of recent years has shown firms big and small have collapsed and left our once vibrant high streets ghost towns.

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Shop Local this Christmas for at least some of your festive spending and help protect our traditional retail centres.



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SUPPORT: It may be easy to turn to the internet but not using your high street shops means you may lose them

will start to see independent retailers leaving the high streets in droves as they go out of business.

"That will leave us with particularly charmless clone high streets with nothing more than big brands."

That is a sentiment echoed by the Kent and Medway Federation of Small Businesses (FSB) – an organisation which represents small and medium sized businesses in the UK.

Alison Parmar is the development

manager at the FSB. She told KoS that shopping locally is not just crucial for businesses on the high street, but for the wider regional economy as well.

She said: "Local procurement is so important for the economy. For every £1 spent locally with a small or medium sized retailer, we see another 63 pence being filtered back into the economy. It's this kind of circulation of money which we desperately need in local economies. It keeps the high

street vibrant and full of interesting shops, and it helps to keep jobs in the area. If that £1 is spent with a large retailer, only 40 pence ends up back in the local economy. That's why it's so important to be supporting smaller independent retailers on high streets."

And according to Mrs Parmar, it isn't just the local economy which benefits by shopping locally.

She said: "Food miles also translate



SHOP LOCAL: Help to save your high street and its hard-working traders

into other goods as well. Purchasing goods online normally means that they are sent by courier from a central warehouse which could be miles away. Obviously that's much more damaging environmentally than going to support a local high street trader. That's also the case with buying locally produced things; its so much better to support the local economy, and the environment."

And in the run up to Christmas, shoppers eager to get presents for family, friends and colleagues are crucial to the long term survival of the small independent retailers.

Bob Jones is the executive chairman of 'Canterbury Connected' – a Business Improvement District (BID). The BID is a business led and funded partnership which has brought traders and other businesses in the city

together to help make improvements to draw shoppers in to the city.

Mr Jones told KoS that getting footfall in to the shops was crucial, especially at this point in the year.

He said: "The six weeks running up to Christmas are probably the most important in the whole year for retailers. It is the big time, when most of the big ticket purchases are made by customers, and many businesses do so much trade that it really helps them through leaner periods in the year."

"It is crucial that there's an audience. Last year Canterbury didn't have Christmas lights. This year, we have invested in Christmas lights to draw more people in. We are competing with things like out-of-town retail parks, free parking at these places and internet shopping."

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"It's a really tough sell right now, so we need to ensure that we are offering shoppers something they can't get elsewhere. Our group represents about 650 businesses around Canterbury, and about 45 per cent of those are independents. These businesses mark the city as something a little bit special, and a bit unique. We want to ensure that they are retained in the future.

"We have also launched an app which helps to get people engaged in the city using technology, but still gets them in to the town to actually do their shopping."

And that use of technology to engage the public, before getting them into town centres, is exactly what Ms James suggests as well.

She said: "Retailers need to adapt to the marketplace and use new technology to their advantage. One way they can do this is to get people looking online at products, which they then come into the store to purchase. That gives the customer the ability to check out products in the comfort of their home, and then they can go and see them in the flesh before they buy.

"Some retailers offer the click and collect scheme as well, which lets the customer browse at home, make the purchase at home, and then collect from their local store. It would be great to see more retailers offering things like this which adapt to people's changing shopping habits."

But even using its app, Mr Jones says that some traders are struggling.

He said: "We're quite lucky in Canterbury because we get a lot of footfall from both tourists and students. Even so though, we have seen traders really struggling over the last couple of years, and that has left some holes in



the high street. It's absolutely crucial that people spend their money locally and support their local shops, otherwise we'll lose them."

That is something that independent retailer, Swaines of Tenterden, says is critical for shops to survive.

The clothing shop has been in Tenterden since the Second World War, building a base of clients, and last year managed to sell more than 300 Wellington boots in the run up to Christmas.

Angela Clark, the manager of ladies shoes at the store, says that the internet has been the big problem for her shop.

She said: "The internet is a big problem. We find that people will come in, try things on and they then go and find the same product on the internet."

"The thing which has helped us to survive, is that we offer a range of specialist services, and a number of different stock which isn't easily available

elsewhere. That's helped us quite a bit, but the trading landscape still isn't great."

And she says that often, it's the local people who aren't supporting the shop.

She said: "A lot of our customers aren't locals. They are making a special trip to Tenterden, whether that's for business, shopping or a holiday. There don't seem to be many local people who come along to the shop."

That type of 'destination' shopping

is what Billy Keefe, the owner of Margate's Kiss Me Quick shop, says is the future for the high street.

He told KoS: "If the high street wants to survive, it needs to make destination shops, and something which draws shoppers in. That means unique products and services being offered, and also help from councils and town teams."

"We were lucky to get the Turner Contemporary art gallery, as that helped to draw tourists to Margate and make it a destination for people who don't live in the area. It really kick started the local economy, giving businesses a customer base."

And Mr Keefe says that the high street still has a good future - though it may be slightly reduced.

He said: "The high street can survive, but it needs to offer something different. In Margate, I know of 25 businesses which opened in the past year. Admittedly, there were also a number which closed, but things here are getting better and retailers are doing okay. The high street has a good future, but it might change a bit more yet."

And that, Ms James says, is extremely likely as town centre spaces look to diversify.

She said: "The shape of the high street has changed, and it will continue to do so, but the question is by how much. No one can say until it happens, but I think there is a real possibility that it will become more of a multi-use space, with things like leisure, housing, offices and shops all coming together in the future."

"That would begin to increase footfall and make town centres more vibrant, but, as a result, we may well see more retailers shut before then."

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History in the making at by-election?

It is being hailed by some as the most important public votes in decades and may be the start of a sea change in British politics. And it is taking place in Medway. But as **Sarah Linney** finds out from the experts, there's a big difference between by-elections and general elections...

MARK Reckless is going to win. It's what the polls say. It's what the bookies say – in fact some of them have stopped taking bets on it. And it's what both our political pundits said – and by a hefty margin too.

"Ukip are going to win by ten per cent," John Fitzgibbon, lecturer in politics and international relations at Canterbury Christ Church University, told KoS.

"People want to kick the government. Mark Reckless could be anybody and people would still vote in favour of Ukip. They are tired of the status quo."

But he says this is quite normal for a by-election.

"By-elections are not general elections," Dr Fitzgibbon explained.

"It's a one-off snapshot. People are sending a message to the government. Governments rarely win by-elections – if it had just been Tories and Labour, Labour probably would have won because people want to not vote Tory. But there is cynicism towards the main parties in general."

But why, if it's a protest vote, would even left-wing voters turn to Ukip rather than, for example, the Greens?

"Ukip are much more high profile. People don't know what the Greens' policies are," Dr Fitzgibbon said.

"Immigration and the European Union are easy things that people can understand and project their feelings onto. So the parties are just saying 'we will punch the EU in the face' or 'we'll kick a migrant for you'. Nobody is addressing the bigger problems."

"But Ukip are nothing without Nigel Farage – he is so high profile. This is as much a vote for Nigel Farage as it is for Mark Reckless."

And he says the result at the general election could be very different.

"In general elections people are deciding who is going to form a government and what direction they want the country to go in."

"And they'll need to ask themselves, what are Ukip going to do to give me more money in my pocket?" he said.

"Mark Reckless won't be able to get anything done, because he's not in

the party of power. The general election could come round and he could lose his seat. And then it could be the Tories or Labour."

Richard Whitman, professor of politics and international relations at the University of Kent, agreed that Mr Reckless would be the victor.

"All the polls are so strongly in favour of a Ukip win, way beyond the margin of error," he said.

"It has gone from being a reasonably safe Tory seat – and the 273rd most unwinnable Ukip seat – to one which everyone expects him to win. The upset now would be for Ukip not to win it."

But he said it was doubtful whether Mr Reckless would have jumped ship had he not suspected that voters would be favourable.

"In the European elections, the seat was clearly a Ukip seat," Mr Whitman explained.

"Reckless knew what the polling was for the constituency. He had a very good sense of the way things were going and he must have made a calculation – it would have been difficult to hold that seat as a Tory unless they didn't field a candidate against him."

And he agreed that whether, if Mr Reckless won, he could hold onto the seat at the general election would be an entirely different matter.

"He was hammered over his personal integrity in the TV debates [BBC debate aired earlier this week featuring the five major candidates], and on Lodge Hill, which he was in favour of but flip-flopped over," Professor Whitman said.

PUNDITS' PREDICTIONS

John Fitzgibbon verdict:

Ukip: 40 per cent.
Tories: 30 per cent.
Labour: 20 to 25 per cent.
Turnout: 50 per cent, it depends on the weather.

Richard Whitman verdict:

Ukip: 30 per cent plus.
Tories: 25 to 30 per cent.
Labour: 20 per cent – if they get 20 per cent they will be very happy.
Turnout: 60 per cent plus would be pretty impressive.

KoS prediction:

Ukip: 37 per cent.
Tories: 30 per cent.
Labour: 23 per cent.
Green Party: 5 per cent.
Liberal Democrats: 4 per cent.
Others: 1 per cent.
Turnout: 50 per cent



AND THE WINNER IS? Anything less than a Ukip win will be seen as a disaster for Nigel Farage and his party

He said he believed the open primary election which the Tories used to choose their candidate, Kelly Tolhurst, was a good idea – but that they have been hampered by the result.

"They seem to be throwing the kitchen sink at the by-election, but I think they have ended up with a candidate who's not really strong enough for the kind of exposure she's getting," Professor Whitman said.

"She was selected late – she went from campaigning to win the nomination to being the candidate straightaway – and they haven't had the time to give her the training she needs."

"She is a local and knows the constituency, but I think she comes across as a scrapper – a bit abrasive."

But he says that, if channelled properly, that quality could have been a huge positive for the Tories.

"If you are going to have a scrapper, you want to have a scrapper who can get things done," Professor Whitman said.

"She could have harnessed it a bit more and projected it onto Reckless a

bit more. He should be being seriously turned over. They need to be hammering on his record on local issues, the hospital, his integrity."

"Reckless is not very charismatic and with a stronger, more charismatic candidate they could have run him really hard. But they seem to be a bit askew on some of their messaging."

One surprise in the polls has been the comparatively low Labour share of the vote. Although the boundaries were different, the seat was held by

Labour MP Bob Marshall-Andrews from 1997 to 2010 and Naushabah Khan is widely held to be an able and articulate candidate.

"She was the strongest in the TV debates and the most plausible. I think she's going to be a rising star," Professor Whitman said.

"But I don't think she's backed up by enough support from the national party. They are probably sitting back and letting Ukip and the Tories tear chunks out of one another, and keeping their powder dry for the general election."



BY-ELECTION TIMELINE

September 7: Following his friend Douglas Carswell's move to Ukip, Mark Reckless tells KoS when directly asked, he is not going to do the same thing.

September 27: Mark Reckless appears on stage at the Ukip conference and announces he is joining the party.

October 9: Mr Carswell becomes the first MP elected under the Ukip banner with a landslide victory in Clacton-on-Sea.

October 11: Ukip launches its Rochester by-election campaign with a visit from Mr Carswell.

October 14: By-election date confirmed as November 20.

October 23: Kelly Tolhurst announced as the Conservative candidate following a ballot open to all voters in the constituency, known as an open primary.

November 10: The candidates from the five main parties appear in a televised debate.

November 20: Polling day



THE UKIP SHOP: Turn out could be key in the battle for the Medway seat... some voters may be put off having their say if they see the result as set in stone

"And the Lib Dems could end up behind the Greens, which would be pretty humiliating for them, especially as Geoff Juby is a local candidate and has fought the seat before.

"But Nick Clegg hasn't been to the constituency."

Professor Whitman says that Ukip

and the Tories might be the two parties which seem to have the biggest chance of winning the seat – but they are also the two with the most to lose.

"If Ukip don't win this seat, people will think hard about whether a vote for them is a wasted vote," he said.

"And the Tories don't want to have any more MP defections, anyone thinking they could hang onto their seat if they moved to Ukip.

"If Ukip win by a ten per cent margin over the Tories, that would be pretty amazing and would be a gamechanger in the run-up to the

general election. But if they just scrape it, the Tories have all sorts of ways of explaining it away.

"Turnout matters a lot, as UKIP's appeal appears to be with a lot of people who don't normally vote. It depends how many people turn out and who those people are."

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THE CANDIDATES



CONSERVATIVES

NAME: Kelly Tolhurst

AGE: 36

LIVES: Borstal

PROFESSION: Marine surveyor

HOW DO YOU FEEL THE CAMPAIGN HAS GONE SO FAR?: "I've been speaking to as many people on the doorstep as possible and so far I have had a very positive reaction."

DO YOU FEEL IT'S BEEN HARDER FOR YOU BECAUSE YOU CAME INTO THE CAMPAIGN LATE?: "Not particularly, because while we were doing the ballot I had time to concentrate on what I would want to achieve if I became the candidate, and I feel I have a strong plan for what I would like to deliver locally and nationally."

ARE YOU GOING TO WIN?: "I think I stand every chance. I hope people will think that what they get with me is someone who is truly passionate about this area. They are not getting a career politician. I really want this area to be represented by someone strong."



UKIP

NAME: Mark Reckless

AGE: 43

LIVES: Rochester

PROFESSION: Before politics lawyer, before that economist and management consultant.

HOW DO YOU FEEL THE CAMPAIGN HAS GONE SO FAR?: "It's gone as well as I'd hoped. I don't put too much emphasis on polls, but I am getting more enthusiastic support on the doorstep than I ever got as a Conservative. I have had a lot of support and people coming to help, locally and from across the country."

ARE YOU GOING TO WIN?: "I don't know. I am optimistic about my prospects and I think I have got a fighting chance. If I don't win I will be disappointed, but I came into politics to try to change things and I didn't feel the Tories were keeping their promises."



GREEN PARTY

NAME: Clive Gregory

AGE: 55

LIVES: Hoo peninsula

PROFESSION: Musician and sound engineer

HOW DO YOU FEEL THE CAMPAIGN HAS GONE SO FAR?: "It's been interesting, fun and challenging at times. It's a hard battle for the Green Party but I think we've done an amazing job over the last two weeks. We are determined to get our voice heard. I've got to be really pleased with the fact that we are getting exposure. I'm amazed by how many people respond to what we have to say when they get a chance to hear it."

ARE YOU GOING TO WIN?: "Anyone can win. There is huge frustration and at some point we are going to see that protest vote turn into anything other than the Tories and Labour. There's no reason why people can't suddenly go: let's vote for this guy. We need them to get into the booth and hold onto their nerve."



LABOUR

NAME: Naushabah Khan

AGE: 28

LIVES: Gillingham

PROFESSION: Works in PR

HOW DO YOU FEEL THE CAMPAIGN HAS GONE SO FAR?: "Nobody was prepared for what Mark did it – but it's meant we have been able to run a strong campaign, with a lot of support locally and from the national party. I've had fantastic support from shadow ministers."

ARE YOU GOING TO WIN?: "A lot of people are still making up their minds. You can look at all the polls, but people will decide on the day – and I do get a bit of a different impression on the doorstep. We are knocking on doors and speaking to as many people as we can, and we are in it to win, but there is disillusionment across the country with politics and every party has to address that. It might explain why UKIP are doing so well, as they are offering simple solutions to complex problems."



LIBERAL DEMOCRATS

NAME: Geoff Juby

AGE: 60

PROFESSION: Semi-retired; used to work in the catering industry

HOW DO YOU FEEL THE CAMPAIGN HAS GONE SO FAR?: "It's going reasonably well, and I've got some new candidates for next year's local election."

WHAT ABOUT THE FACT THAT YOU MIGHT FINISH FIFTH?: "We've come fifth in the last two or three by-elections."

ARE YOU GOING TO WIN?: "I would like to win, but it's down to the public and they seem to be having Ukip fever. About the same as I got last time, 16 per cent, would be good, but it's an uphill struggle. We've done limited canvassing, and I've had a few Lib Dem voters say they'll go to Ukip, which I was really surprised by, but I think a lot of the blame for economic woes is being given to immigration, when it's down to the banks and their poor management."

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Firing up a revival in the flipping joy of pinball tables

Set to be stars of Margate's retro amusement park, **Maria Chiorando** meets a real pinball wizard and major collector

It was recently revealed that Wayne Hemingway's vision for a re-imagined Dreamland features a large vintage pinball parlour.

While this will not open until next summer, there is a selection of the arcade favourites in the park's visitor centre Expo.

Peter Heath is a pinball enthusiast from Ramsgate who provided many of the machines when his pinball parlour moved to the museum in Margate.

He said: "Pinball is something people can get obsessive about, but then as with any collecting community, you get different sectors, the anoraks, the players, vintage enthusiasts."

"Most of the machines in this country belong to private owners, but the UK market is dominated by collectors who are interested in '90s machines."

"I am more into vintage, and am in the minority. I got into pinball prima-

rily through playing them as a kid in the arcades. Years later, I bought one for a party, and needed to get it fixed."

"This was in the '80s, before the internet, where if you needed to find something, you needed to do real research. I did find someone to fix it, and they introduced me to a pinball association. I then started collecting."

Collecting can be a pricey business: Vintage pinball machines vary enormously in price, with many factors having an effect, including condition, availability and location.

The top strata of games, which can reach around £8,000 includes '90s games such as Medieval Madness. Classics such as 'Creature from the Black Lagoon' can fetch around £1,000. Older games from the '70s and '80s will generally have a lower value, reaching about £800 if they are in good condition.

A particularly desirable model can

fetch even more, with auction house Christies selling a 1962 machine for £10,400 in a sale last year.

The modern game of pinball has roots several hundred years old.

Mr Heath said: "Pinball developed from the 17th century French Bagatelle game. There were mini table top games, mechanical toy-type affairs, which were little more than a bunch of nails in a board, with a ball."

"That's the origin of the modern pinball."

"Mechanised pinball started with the advent of portable electricity. Someone clever in America realised that you could use power in the form of a car battery – so they started making mechanised bagatelle tables."

"The next step was to put a back flash. They then moved onto mains electricity, so that there was a plug, and the machines plugged into walls rather than batteries."



TILT: The electrical pinball machine is based on the game Bagatelle

"After the war, someone invented flippers, and the modern game was born."

The next big development was in the 1970s, when the circuit board was introduced, and essentially – with the addition of a circuit board update in the early '90s – the machines have remained similar.

So how has pinball fared during the current vogue for all things vintage?

Mr Heath said: "Popularity of the machines comes and goes – pinball probably had its heyday in the '50s and early '60s. I remember arcades in this country and there would be 20 or 30 machines in an arcade."

"There was a resurgence of popularity in the 90s, as there was a development that saw more animation being put into the scoring features – it was a landmark innovation, and machines made post-1991 are what most collectors want."

"The problem is that pinball machines are expensive to run, and they can be unreliable, they can require too much effort."

This means that you are far more likely to find fruit machines in contemporary arcades, but this is an issue that mainly affects the UK, as on the continent and the United States, it is illegal to have gambling machines outside specific designated areas.

In terms of design, there are two types of machine: the ones with original artwork, and those which are licensed from other franchises.

Mr Heath said: "These days, pretty much all of the artwork on games is based on a tie-in. For example, you have games based on rock bands, like AC/DC and the Rolling Stones."

"You also have lots of games based on films, Avatar and Spider-man. The artwork is based on something that already exists."

"Before, the artwork was more ab-

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A pioneering foster agency is giving you an opportunity to "rise to the challenge" and transform the lives of children who require foster care.

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Kate said: "We believe all children will have experiences which will affect their behaviour and self-image but by seeing carers as 'experts on everyday' life we believe change can be promoted by

mutual respect, strength of relationships and finding solutions together."

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Foster carers look like you

"Lighthouse Fostering does not have 'types' of people or the perfect image of a foster carer but sees everyone as unique as our children who equally come from all walks of life".



COLOURFUL: Some machines used licensed artwork from bands or films for example while others used completely original designs and are now much sought after by pinball machine collectors

stract, and the designers would have a pretty much free reign. For example, I have a '60s machine called 'spinwheel'. It's not based on a pre-existing theme, it's original artwork.

"Tie-ins started in the '70s, and I'm not sure how they affected popularity, but there are a couple that were pretty significant.

"Famous games include one with Captain Fantastic, which came off the back of the Elton John album, who

was one of the biggest artists in the world at the time. The machine manufacturers bought the license to reproduce the artwork, and used the album cover design on the backboard. "There was a Muhammed Ali, there was also one featuring Dolly Parton, which seemed an odd choice.

"For a while, it was about 50 per cent tie-ins, and 50 per cent original art work, but now the abstract days are over."

He is sanguine about how the manufacture of machines will fare given the current appetite for the game.

Brand new machines are expensive - they start at around £3,000, and can cost in excess of £6,000.

He said: "Production of the machines is lower nowadays, there are only one or two new models a year - there isn't much space for variation because there isn't the volume.

"The manufacturers are struggling

- I don't know if there's much future in new builds, and I would predict the two remaining companies will either merge or go out of business.

"The collectors are not going to sustain mass manufacture."

However, with Dreamland hoping to see many visitors when it opens next year, a whole new crowd could be attracted to the game.

Mr Heath said: "Dreamland will be a major pinball event, something we

haven't had for a long time. It's going to be more of a historical arcade than something to interest modern players, but I think there will be an awful lot of interest from the general public.

"We are trying to reproduce amusement machine arcades - make it the same as they would have looked between the '50s up to the '80s.

"The Dreamland Expo certainly gives you a taste, but we have a load of other stuff sitting in the wings."

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VARIETY OF ANIMALS: It may not be to everyone's taste, but some of the work of taxidermist Bill Cave in his Rochester workshop demonstrates the quality of the taxidermist's art

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EXPERT:
Bill Cave, from Rochester, is skilled at bringing his various creations back to life



Bringing the dead back

Interest in taxidermy as both an art form and as a hobby or profession is on the rise. **Maria Chiorando** looks at what exactly is attracting so many new devotees...

With increasingly macabre art works becoming mainstream, and rare pieces changing hands for up to £150,000, many are claiming that taxidermy is seeing a huge surge in popularity.

Certainly, classes in the craft are becoming commonplace, mounted animals are being seen more and more frequently as design statements in trendy bars and homes, and famous artists such as Polly Morgan (not to mention Damian Hirst) are using the technique in their work.

But according to one Kent taxidermist, the new vogue for artistic taxidermy is nothing more than a case of 'the emperor's new clothes,' and in fact the craft has been steadily popular for years.

Bill Cave is a semi-retired taxidermist from Rochester. He said: "I have been doing it for 35 years, and during that time, I've never been out of employment.

"It has been a life-long interest. When I first started, to get work I would go to places like county shows and game fairs. As word of mouth began to spread, I got more and more work until I could pick and

choose the projects I wanted to do.

"For me the challenge is in making the animal look as it did when it was alive, and that requires skill – it takes a long time to learn to do it properly, and it is extremely detailed work.

"Now you see some people who barely practised in it themselves offering classes to others, it's become about something different, and the craft can get a bit lost."

Dover-based taxidermist Paul Yardley, 64, agrees. He said: "I have been doing it for years, and have been able to pick and choose projects, but I have seen a definite increase in its popularity recently, and lots of that interest is coming from younger people.

"I think it's because years ago, animals were often shot for taxidermy. That's not the case anymore, there's lots of legislation in place, and people are becoming more aware of that."

Laura Barnes, 27, from Swanley, is one of the new wave of those learning about taxidermy because it has become more of a trend.

She says: "I think that taxidermy has become more popular because of the rise in interest in Victoriana and the

macabre, this was a golden age for it, and there are some really interesting and strange pieces like the Kitten's Wedding [by Victorian amateur Walter Potter].

"His work shows stuffed animals, generally in a tableau, doing human things – for example, at a wedding, or like children in a classroom.

"While some people find it really disgusting, others, myself included, see a really kitsch charm in it."

While some see taxidermy as art, others see it as a chance to hold on, literally, to a loved pet.

Mr Cave says: "Lots of people want to get their pets stuffed. There is a huge market for it, especially in America, but it's something I've not done for a while, apart from a dog I did some time ago because a woman really wanted me to do it.

"It's particularly difficult because the animal is so special to the person who owned it.

"You can get a close likeness, but you lose the characteristics of a pet because it becomes inanimate – a lot of the characteristics will be in the movements of the face."

For Ms Barnes, who works in a bar, recapturing that likeness is not the only element.



to life again

She says: "I see a separation between the new art form of taxidermy, and the old traditional one. While old style crafts people are trying to recreate a perfect form, the artists are maybe trying to be more thought-provoking, or shocking.

"A good example of that is Charlie Tuesday Gates, a popular installation artist who is becoming more well-known, who uses taxidermy – she doesn't necessarily do 'straight' pieces that look like the animal, but will put the animal in an unexpected context.

"It's not realism at all – it's something different."

The use of animals in art or taxidermy remains a sensitive topic for many, and in fact there are restrictions on animals that can be used under the 1981 Wildlife Act that prohibits the killing of animals to stuff them.

The Guild of Taxidermists, who work to promote lawful and quality work, say: "Taxidermy has moved on from the way that Victorian taxidermists conducted their studies.

"We have very strict laws that prevent the illegal killing of certain birds and animals which the Guild support fully and this legal information is shared with all members.

"These days many specimens are found at the roadside. Road traffic is the largest cause of death to wildlife in the UK.

"Consultants to the British Trust for Ornithology estimate that almost two million creatures are killed on our roads every week (104 million per year) and although many are damaged beyond repair, a large percentage are left at the roadside with little damage.

"The use of these specimens presents no threat to our wildlife. Specimens are still mounted by taxidermists that have been shot or killed, but the guild only supports that activity if it is done strictly within the law"

Mr Yardley says: "It's good that we are seeing implementation of the law, like everything, you have your people who are legit, and others who aren't - and you can tell who's who through the quality of the work.

"The idea of taxidermy is to celebrate the life of the animal – the animal lives on, instead of being buried."

WHAT IS TAXIDERMY – AND HOW DO YOU DO IT?

TAXIDERMY is the process of preparing, stuffing and then mounting the skins of animals.

Mr Cave explains: "I like working with birds best, so say, for example, someone brings me a bird – I'll freeze it straight away.

"When I start to work on it, I will thaw it, and skin it. All the fat has to come out from the flesh side of the skin, as it rots, so that all comes out.

"The skin needs to be washed, soaked, towel dried and then blow dried – I just use a hair dryer to do this."

The next part of the process involves re-filling the animal's body.

Mr Cave added: "I next make a foam body that then goes inside the skin.

"I use wire to fashion bones for the legs and the wings.

"Once you've made a body, and put in wires for the wings and legs, you pull it together – at this point, you have a rough article – it needs to be sewn up, stood on a perch, and preened.

"At this point I will put the eyes in."

The last part of the process is the trickiest, he says: "Putting the bird together is a craft – the finish, where you make it look alive, is the art.

"There is a lot of detail in the positioning of the wings and the legs that many people wouldn't notice, but refining that, and getting those details right is what makes it look good – that's the skill."



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CHALLENGE: James Brokenshire MP says reversing tide of migrants is like "turning a supertanker"

Battling to bolster under fire borders

Immigration is an emotive subject and one that is particularly pertinent in our coastal towns. **Jamie Weir** talks to immigration minister James Brokenshire about how he and the Government are tackling the issue...

THE country is 'swamped' by immigrants. That was the message from Sevenoaks MP Michael Fallon recently as he talked about immigration in Kent.

He pointed to a particular issue in many of our coastal towns, which have borne the brunt of immigration in recent years.

These towns, like Folkestone and Dover, are the gateway to Europe, and so, receive almost all of the immigrants coming to the UK – the vast majority are too poor to get on a plane and so take the easiest route into the country.

And immigration minister, James Brokenshire, is also concerned by the levels of immigration in Kent.

As the Conservative MP for Old Bexley and Sidcup, which was, at one time, a part of Kent before being enveloped by London, he has cause to care about what happens in the county – that's because what happens in Kent is on his doorstep.

In an interview with Kent on Sun-



'SWAMPED': Michael Fallon MP

day, the minister with responsibility for the levels of immigration said that he has deep concern about the issue, stating that he feels that more needs to be done to tackle immigration into the UK.

He said: "There are obvious concerns about immigration, and I've been very clear about saying that the levels of net migration into the UK are too high.

"My focus is on bringing these levels down to the more sustainable levels which we have seen over the last 30 years or so. If people have concerns on immigration, then I get that.

"As immigration minister I spend a huge amount of time working to secure our border and to ensure that we are working to stamp out any abuses of system, and seeing that we are doing our utmost to reduce those levels."

But, says the minister, the primary reason for the issues with immigration being on the rise has been caused by the Tories not being able to do as they want with regard to both Europe and the country's borders.

Mr Brokenshire said: "There has been frustration with the public not having seen us doing everything that we have wanted to. But we are in coalition, and that has meant that we couldn't deliver everything that we have wanted to."

Still, according to Mr Brokenshire, things have been getting better under his tenure as the man responsible for the security of our borders.

He says that the immigration issue is one which could never be tackled instantly, but something which requires time for the changes to be noticeable – and one of the reasons for the lack of speedy change according to Mr Brokenshire, was the system inherited from the previous Labour government.

He said: "I think it's important to underline in turning the immigration system round, the mess we inherited; it has been a bit like turning a supertanker, it takes time before things swing in the right direction.

"We have cut net migration from its peak by around a quarter since 2005. And also, net migration from outside the EU is close to levels which we haven't seen since the late 1990s."

And he's right, the figures don't lie. Net migration has indeed been cut from around 270,000 to almost 170,000 in 2011. However, there was a significant rise between 2013 and 2014. Net migration soared to 243,000 in the year ending March, 2014, a big increase from 175,000 in the previous 12 months.

Some have pointed the finger of blame at the UK's continuing membership in the EU – according to the Office for National Statistics, two thirds of the increase was accounted for by immigration of EU citizens, with 28,000 of these from Romania and Bulgaria – that was a rise of 16,000 new migrants from those countries over the year.

The chairman of Migration Watch,

Sir Andrew Green, a group which campaigns to lower the current levels of immigration, says the figure is unacceptable and that there has been an almost 13,000 increase in workers from those countries, stating that the group thought the final figure would grow still.

Sir Andrew said: "A 13,000 increase in the number of Romanian and Bulgarian workers compared to the same quarter last year is significant, especially as transitional controls were still in place for the first half of the year.

"Once dependants are factored in it is likely that the increase in population over the whole year 2014 will be between 30,000 and 70,000 as we predicted. Our central estimate of 50,000 remains a very likely outcome."

“ There are obvious concerns about immigration, and I've been clear the levels of net migration into the UK are too high

James Brokenshire,
Immigration minister

And that, says Mr Brokenshire, is something which needs to end.

He said: "I know there is more we need to do on EU migration, and that is why, it is absolutely right, that EU immigration will be at the heart of renegotiation.

"This is because of all those pressures on our infrastructure and public services, like our roads, like our hospitals schools, those very direct pressures people see and it's the speed and rate of change which has been the real issue here, and that's why our focus is on reducing those levels."

Can bouncing probe unlock a comet's secret?

Like a scene from a sci-fi movie, this week's landing of an ESA probe on a comet hurtling through deep space has captured the public's imagination. **Jamie Weir** speaks to two of the scientists based in the county who helped make it happen...

THE European Space Agency's (ESA) £1 billion mission to land a probe called Philae, on the comet 67P Churyumov-Gerasimenko, was hailed a success earlier in the week when the probe finally touched down on the surface of the comet.

It is hoped the historic landing will help scientists answer some of the fundamental questions about the creation of the Earth and other parts of our solar system.

Comet 67P, which is more than four billion years old and has a mass of 10 billion tonnes, is hurtling through space at a speed of 40,000mph making the landing extremely difficult.

The mission, which has already taken 10 years, saw the probe launched from the Rosetta spacecraft before it made a 20 kilometre descent to finally land on the comet.

However, it wasn't all plain sailing, with the lander 'bouncing' as the harpoons which were to secure it failed to deploy correctly. Because of the bumpy landing, the Philae craft ended up sitting in the shadow of a cliff on the surface of the comet. That has led to fears that its battery - which recharges using solar energy - might run out.

Kent-based scientists Dr Stephen Lowry and Professor John Todd played a part in the historic landing.

Dr Lowry works at the University of Kent's Centre for Astrophysics and Planetary Sciences. He made up part of the analysis team that created the OSIRIS optical camera which is onboard the Rosetta spaceship.

He told KoS he was honoured to have worked on the project, stressing that it could revolutionise scientific thinking, but that even if the battery were to run out, the mission had still had successes.

He said: "This really is a once in a lifetime event. We have never been able to do this before, and even now that the landing has been accomplished, there is still so much left to do."

"The Rosetta mission has already been successful, changing how we see comets and revolutionising our thinking for many things, but there is still so much left to find out."

"The mission will look to answer three main questions which encompass how the solar system was formed, why comets behave as they do, and perhaps most interestingly, how life on earth might have got started."

"It is thought that a comet might have brought water or amino acids, both building blocks of life, to earth millions of years ago. If we can answer that question, it could change our thinking on a number of things."

The mission to the comet has been in the planning for almost a quarter of a century, with the Rosetta spaceship spending the past



COMET SUCCESS: Dr Stephen Lowry

decade journeying over 6.4 billion kilometres to reach the comet.

The camera which Dr Lowry helped to design captured images of the comet as the Rosetta arrived in its orbit.

Dr Lowry said: "Much of the planning for the landing phase of the mission relied heavily on images from the OSIRIS camera, in order to obtain a detailed map of the surface for landing site selection, and detailed characterisation of the site once a suitable patch on the surface was identified."

"The camera which we designed has already been useful for us, showing the comet's unusual shape. The images captured of the comet's unusual shape, which is bi-lobed, have led to speculation that it may have been formed by the collision of two separate comets. That, in itself, is a fascinating discovery."

Other experiments in the field of 'mass spectrometry' will also take place.

Kent University's emeritus professor, John Todd, is an internationally recognised expert in this subject. He has been a consultant for 'The Ptolemy experiment', which is loaded onboard the Philae landing craft.

The experiment is designed to determine the isotopic composition of the chemicals that make up the surface material of the comet, as well as the gases immediately above its surface.

Professor Todd said: "It is hoped simultaneous comparison of these results with those obtained from samples of standard reference compounds carried from Earth will provide crucial information on how the Earth was formed, and the role played by comets in this process."



Have your say

on the proposal for a new tunnel under the Thames at Silvertown

We'd like your opinion on a new tunnel at Silvertown, which is part of a package of proposed river crossings. The new tunnel will:

- Provide a new road crossing across the Thames
- Reduce queuing at the Blackwall Tunnel
- Support the creation of new jobs and homes
- Create the opportunity for new public transport connections

We'd also like your views on a proposed range of charging options for the Blackwall and Silvertown Tunnels. Charging would be implemented from the early 2020s once the Silvertown Tunnel construction is complete to help manage demand and fund the new tunnel.

To find out more please visit tfl.gov.uk/silvertown-tunnel or call 0343 222 1234*

The consultation ends 19 December 2014

*Calls from BT landlines cost up to 5p per minute. Cost of calls from other lines may vary.



MAYOR OF LONDON



Is flooding a man-made disaster waiting to happen on the Romney Marsh?

Could a lack of drainage work be putting some of the county's best agricultural land and some 14,000 homes in danger? **Jamie Weir** finds out more...

THE pancake flat landscape of the Romney Marsh hints at its birth from the sea, but what of the marsh's future as climate change leads sea levels to rise?

The dramatic rain that Kent saw last year pushed the marsh's defences to the limit, with significant flooding across the low lying land.

The scale of the problem left one campaign group calling for action to ensure the area didn't become Kent's own version of the Somerset Levels. And the land, which was created as longshore drift dragged a protective shingle bank around the area, needs regular maintenance in order to keep it drained, and the ground dry.

That's almost the exact same situation as in the Netherlands.

But while the Dutch are also below sea level and drainage is key to the land's survival, that is where the similarities begin and end according to campaigner Brigitte Bass.

She works with a group called Defend Our Coast campaigning to ensure Romney Marsh is protected from flooding.

She said: "It's all very well having amazing sea defences on the coast, but on the marshes, if the ditches and canals aren't maintained, those sea walls will just keep the water in. And that is the problem, our drainage ditches simply aren't being maintained to high enough standards."

"The Dutch dredge their drainage ditches and canals over four times a year. That is the standard we need in the UK, and that's what we are crying out for on the Romney Marsh."

But despite these calls for more maintenance, Ian Nunn, the operations manager for the Environment Agency (EA), says there has been significant work done over the past year.

He said: "This summer we have been reed cutting all of the ditches and waterways that we maintain to clear them and allow water to flow. We have even done this twice to some of them to ensure that they're in great shape for the winter."

"We have also just started a de-silting programme on the Royal Military Canal to ensure that is in good shape, and are ensuring that all of our pumps are all operational and working well."

The group that kicked off a consolidated campaign to improve maintenance of drainage ditches earlier in the year, the Campaign to Protect Rural England in Kent (CPRE Kent), says although action has been taken it is still not enough.

Chairman Christine Drury says more needs to be done to ensure the marsh doesn't disappear under water.



FLOODING: Surface water at Jury's Gut earlier this year in February. Fears are growing that more drainage work needs to be done to protect the marsh

She told KoS: "CPRE Kent is pleased that there is some progress and that the Romney Marsh is going to be better provided with pumps this autumn and winter than it was last year."

"But there is a still a major issue that government funding only takes account of residents and buildings and does not properly recognise the importance of farmland."

"Romney Marsh is excellent farmland and Environment Agency rules, dictated by the treasury, are geared to people and not agriculture. And yet the economy depends on our agriculture as do the landscapes of Kent and Romney Marsh in particular."

"We call on the government to give proper recognition to the importance of agricultural land."

And that agricultural land is some of the best in Kent, and indeed the UK. The 9,603 hectares of agricultural land has been valued by the Internal Drainage Board as being worth £290 million.

That doesn't take into account the productivity of the land with much of it classed by government as 'Grade 1', which is deemed 'best and most versatile' for agricultural use.

But while the cost would weigh heavy on the farmers of Romney

Marsh, there are also a significant number of homes and people who live in the low lying flood risk areas.

The human tragedy of the 14,000 houses which could be flooded would be significant, and, according to Mrs Bass, needless.

Mrs Bass said: "In the UK we have become purely reactive; we don't do anything until it's too late. That was what happened with the Somerset Levels, where, if ever there was a warning that the EA needed to act, that was it."

"The EA failed to maintain the drainage ditches, and the result was massive, widespread flooding that quite literally ruined peoples lives. That is happening here."

"We are telling the EA that these drainage ditches and waterways need to be cleared, as they are so overgrown, but they are ignoring us."

"It's becoming a really serious issue and it's just a matter of time before we have critical issues. If floods happen here, it will be a purely man-made disaster that has been caused, from start to finish, by the government."

The area's MP, Damian Collins, doesn't accept that, but does appreciate

the need for maintenance on the marsh.

He told KoS: "A lot of the issues on the marsh are caused by maintenance, and there does need to be more done. However, I think we need to look more at the management of drainage maintenance, and what the Internal Drainage Board do compared with what the Environment Agency do."

Currently the Environment Agency maintain the larger waterways and canals, while the Internal Drainage Board maintain the smaller drainage ditches across the marsh. Mr Collins feels that it would be better if more power was put in the hands of the drainage board.

"I think it would make sense to get the local drainage board doing more of this work," explains Mr Collins.

He continued: "It would be better and resolve problems faster, as they are the people who know the area, and they know what needs to be done and how best to go about it. That would deal with a lot of the maintenance issues on the marsh."

And that seems to be the line which the Environment Agency is also taking.

Mr Nunn told KoS: "We are looking to start to get more of the work done by the Internal Drainage Board, just

as this makes sense. It would be more efficient for everyone, and could lead to better outcomes."

"This year maintenance of the marsh has been really successful, and that's because we've been working so closely with partners like the Internal Drainage Board."

The board is an operating authority established in areas of special drainage need in England and Wales.

It has powers to undertake work to secure clean water drainage and water level management within drainage districts.

Its area is not determined by county or council borders, but by water catchment areas within a given region.

And Mr Nunn says that there is no reason for concern about flooding this year, as the marshes have seen one of the biggest maintenance programmes in many years.

He said: "Our funding is based on an annualised programme from government."

"For this year and next, we have had more allocated for flood relief funding, and that has meant we have been able to carry out a larger programme than for the past few years."



IN PERIL: St Thomas a Beckett Church



(above) and flooding at Fairfield



IN NEED OF CLEARING? The threat of flooding is high on Romney Marsh



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Getting the Band Aid back together to help fight Ebola

When in 1984 Band Aid changed our views on global issues, few could have imagined that 30 years later it would be required again. **Chris Murphy** looks at Kent musician Bob Geldof's latest effort to raise millions to battle a crisis...

THIRTY years ago, Bob Geldof watched a news report on the unfolding disaster in Ethiopia.

Presented by Michael Buerk, it revealed the extent of suffering caused by starvation.

Mr Geldof watched on bemused that as the Western world found itself awash with luxury and surplus food supplies, people were dying elsewhere in the world due to a lack of the essentials of food and water.

Determined to do something to assist, the Faversham-based lead singer of the Boomtown Rats decided he would do what he did best – make some music.

Teaming up with Ultravox frontman Midge Ure, they penned a song and pulled in favours to gather the cream of the music industry.

Do They Know It's Christmas would go on to become one of the biggest selling singles in British history.

People were urged to buy friends a copy of the record rather than a Christmas card in 1984, and it raised more than £8million. More importantly, it sparked an awareness of situations elsewhere in the world.

By the time the Live Aid concerts – spearheaded by shows in London and Philadelphia – took place the following summer, the plight of Africa had become a worldwide issue. Together, it raised around £150m.

It sparked a flurry of similar singles for various charities and disasters over the coming years. In 1989, Band Aid was recreated again and reached number one, while in 2004, for the 20th anniversary, it rose to the top once more.

And now, this week, Bob Geldof announced he was getting the band back together, in name at least, to help fight the outbreak of Ebola.

While the original 1984 hit featured the likes of Culture Club, Wham, Duran Duran, Bananarama, Paul Young and Status Quo, this year's offering will feature the talents of One Direction, Ed Sheeran and Adele, among many others. U2 frontman Bono will once again feature.

Margate artist Tracey Emin is even helping out by designing a special sleeve for the CD single. That will cost £4 – a digital download just 99p. Streaming music services such as Spotify will not get access to the single until January in order to maximise sales.

Recording is set to take place this



THIS TIME THE TARGET IS EBOLA: Rock star Bob Geldof is once again on a mission to raise funds to help those who need it most. A new Band Aid single is expected very soon and should be the Christmas number one

weekend, with a release date yet to be confirmed. Few would back against it being the Christmas number one.

Speaking at the launch in London, Mr Geldof explained: "I don't like having to do this. It's quite boring organising it."

"But this is a particularly pernicious illness. Mothers can't comfort their children in their dying hours, husbands cannot hold their dying wife's hand. And it could come our way."

"It really doesn't matter if you hate this song or you don't like this song, you have to buy this thing."

"The sleeve will be a unique artwork by Tracey Emin. I really urge everyone. Don't download it, don't look at it on YouTube, it's a couple of quid. It's a great thing to do at Christmas."

Other versions will be recorded around the world too.

Added Mr Geldof: "I spoke to Quincy Jones [famous music producer who produced USA For Africa's We Are the World in 1985] two weeks ago, he will reconvene the American artists."

The song itself, with its familiar 'Feed the World' refrain, will have its lyrics tweaked to suit the new cause it is raising money for.

Added Midge Ure: "It's not a bad line-up so far. As long as Bob and I stay off the vocals, we'll be fine."

It's expected David Bowie, who

FROM LIVE AID TO LIVE 8

THE Live Aid concert of 1985 was a landmark moment for live music – a day-long televised event which brought some of the greatest talents on stage, together, for a show where Bob Geldof left no one in any doubt it was in order to raise money for a good cause.

Freddie Mercury's triumphant performance fronting Queen was the highlight, but with a line-up which featured David Bowie, U2, Paul McCartney, The Who and many, many more, it

captured a particular moment in time.

The concept was re-born in 2005 when Live Aid became Live 8 – a massive show in London's Hyde Park designed to raise merely awareness to issues and put pressure on the G8 political leaders to divert more funds to easing poverty elsewhere.

It proved a huge publicity machine, but failed to capture the imagination as Live Aid had done all those years ago.

THREAT OF EBOLA

THE latest, and most significant outbreak so far of the Ebola crisis, began in west Africa earlier this year.

Spread by human body fluids, poor hygiene and medical facilities saw it spread quickly.

Since March some 5,000 have died from the illness – the majority of them from Liberia. Thousands of others have been infected.

As the figures rose, finally it

seemed the rest of the world woke up to the threat when it became apparent it could take just one person to board a plane and spread the illness on a wider, global scale.

Cynics would suggest only then did the race for a vaccine get under way.

Today that race continues amid mounting fears it could spread into Europe, the US or elsewhere in the world.

POSITIVE END TO A TRAGIC YEAR

IT has been a tough year for Bob Geldof, but the Boomtown Rats frontman looks set to end it on a high by raising funds for the fight against Ebola.

His daughter Peaches was found dead at her home in Wrotham in April.

The mother-of-two was aged just 25 when her musician husband Tom Cohen discovered her body in a spare bedroom at their Kent home.

An inquest revealed she had been using heroin once again – a habit her friends and family thought she had kicked.

It knocked her father for six. He had to fly in from a trip to the States and identify her body in a Dartford hospital.

Speaking of his grief, he told the Guardian last month: "It comes and goes. Plane rides don't help, because you're on your own."

"I travel with my mate, who's my agent, and we play Scrabble, but in between choosing the words, you're left there, with it."

"So usually I try to write or read. Anything. But even then, it will assail you. And it is an assault."



TRAGEDY: Peaches Geldof was found dead at her home in Wrotham in April

spent much of his childhood in Kent, could introduce the video to go with the record.

The exact line up is still being developed, but among those already confirmed artists are Adele, Bastille, Ellie Goulding – who went to university at Canterbury – Jessie Ware, Paloma Faith, Sam Smith and Olly Murs.

Emeli Sande is also expected to appear.

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DEE lonely divorced female, slim, bubbly, attractive redhead, loves cuddles, looking for a man who can restore my faith in love and make me laugh. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 414961

SOPHIA young 40yrs, married but bored, seeks discreet adult fun, any area, all calls answered. Tel No: 0905 002 1883 Box No: 413399

JACKIE extremely sensual lady but for your eyes only! Likes horses, keeping fit, gardening looking for genuine love interest and companionship. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 414721

LUCY, 32yrs, blonde lady seeks naughty boys of any age for no strings fun. Tel No: 0905 002 1887 Box No: 413443

TERI separated single lady, blonde, blue eyes, slim, WLTm compatible male for genuine friendship, meals out, weekends away, nights out and more. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 414361

KAREN, 42yrs, attractive and broadminded, seeks no strings fun with chap any age, must be discreet. Tel No: 0905 002 1891 Box No: 407953

FEMALE seeking male for adult fun. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 413809

JANE, 40s, tall, blonde leggy lady, honest and keen to meet gent for fun times. I can make you happy! Tel No: 0905 002 1895 Box No: 361745

DEBBIE brown eyed attractive social female, romantic, good listener, loves children, looking for similar nice maledad to get to know, hopefully leading to more. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 414383

DAWN 34, petite auburn haired female, size 12, sensitive, loving, affectionate, WLTm similar homely male who will spend lots of quality times with me for fr. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 414499

SALLY, 38yrs large cuddly lady seeks slim men for discreet meetings. Text Only 4550193

EMMA slim 5ft 8ins, single enjoyed female with OHAC, enjoys many interests, gym, music, easy-going, genuine, supportive, seeking similar male for a chat, maybe a date. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 414957

TRUDY 36yrs, wltm broadminded men of any age/area for day-time meetings. Text Only 4550194

JEAN slim blonde divorcee bubbly affectionate, romantic with lots of love to give, looking for man who knows how to look after a lady for meals in/out, friendship/ltr. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 414699

MELANIE, 38, slim, blonde and bored. Call if you want no strings fun. Text Only 4550198

JANINE 36, faithful, sincere, will never stray seeking similar male. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 414629

JENNI, 52 bored housewife wants no strings fun with younger chap. Text Only 4550197

JANE 48yr old young looking professional female, tall, green eyes, attractive, size 12-14, enjoys walking, keeping active, nights in/out, good wine/conversation, seeking solo male. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 414729

ELAINE 30, fit, sexy, curvy black lady, very feminine, loves wining, dining, nights in, seeks solvent white 40's male who is passionate, loving and caring. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 414711

PETITE Asian lady, slim, N/S, seeks genuine N/S male for wining/dining, fun and frolics. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 414515

FEMALE seeking male for adult fun. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 413809

KAREN 35 petite dark hair/eyed affectionate, caring, lovely female with many interests looking for genuine tic from loving soul mate, dark haired preferred. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 414487

JULIE good looking 40's female, medium build, size 12, loveable, considerate, OHAC, likes nights in/out, walking, seeking loving male without lots of baggage. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 414387

HELEN 19yr old bubbly female looking for male to take me out and show me a good time. No pressure just fun times, no time wasters. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 414223

FREE single 25yr old busty curvy black beauty, sensual, confident, interesting, looking for handsome man to call me back. Race/age unimportant. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 414219

BLUE eyed slim pretty easy going hardworking lady seeking male to put the spark back into my life, must be honest, affectionate, have a GSOH and want to work at a relationship. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 414217

MO 36yr old slim blue eyed pretty blonde looking for fun times with non-judgemental, discreet, kind male. Age/status unimportant. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 414215

JANE 29, loves riding and spending time horsing around, seeking not serious kind of normal guy who enjoys going out having a good time. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 414205

KAREN young looking attractive vibrant slim blonde, enjoys to keep fit, beach walks, travel, meals in/out, good conversation with pleasant company, WLTm genuine sincere male. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 414203

SANDRA attractive lady seeking someone special to help regain my trust in the male species. Only genuine guys pls, I will be worth your time, you won't be disappointed. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 414195

TRACY 35yr busty bubbly out there sized 18 lady looking for a caring loving guy who appreciates womanly curves, over indulgences and having fun. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 414189

MARY tall blonde size 12 lady, nice personality, good conversationalist, varied and open to interests, loves weekends away/holidays, seeking similar male. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 414179

SLIM tall, elegant, feminine, N/S, solvent lady, young 50's, likes travel, red wine, seeks tall, sincere, military, retired, professional gentleman of high calibre. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 414251

WIDOW late 60's, likes most things, seeking a lonely gent, 70-75 to make me love and laugh again. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 414093

68YR old widow, seeking company of a male, 68-75 for friendship, likes cinema, theatre, nights in, meals out, seaside walks. Wants someone to help me love again. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 413689

BW 51, caring, solvent, seeks male of similar age for fun times and socialising. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 413621

FEMALE 38, attractive, African, single mum, seeks male, 35-50 for nights out, socialising, friendship and fun. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 412793

PETITE slim blonde 39yrs, pretty big blue eyes, looking for similar easygoing older male to put a spark back into my life, enjoy nights in/out and more. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 412327

WIDOW 70, lonely, seeking gent, 70-75 to bring a bit of sparkle back in life, likes theatre, cinema. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 412475

KATIE 26yr old pretty slim blue eyed blonde looking for evening entertainment with open-minded discreet guy, any age. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 412319

JANE 29yr old horsey female, loves the outdoors, cycling, as well as duvet days, WLTm not too serious male for a hopefully normal relationship. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 412315

Men Seeking

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SIMON 49, actor, likes music, films, reading, writing, puzzles, loopholes, ambiguity, WLTm very pretty, leggy female, 6ft plus, 40 plus for friendship. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 415155

JAMES, hard working single dad, late 30's seeks single mum for family days out. Text Only 4550196

PAUL early 60's, fit, smart, GSOH, WLTm female for some casual times. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 415113

JOHN, 42yrs professional genuine gent seeks caring lady to treat as a princess. Text Only 4550195

ANDY young 66, widower, honest, caring, affectionate, GSOH, looking for LTR with lady 60's, slim and likeminded. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 415093

JOHN own business, blue eyes, dark hair, loving, caring, tactile, 5ft 10ins, own home, likes to wine and dine, come and meet me. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 414987

LADY companion wanted for older gent, good position in life, likes travel, property abroad etc. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 414821

MALE seeking friendship of mature woman, smoker. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 412703

FEMININE sensual female, slim-medium build wanted by slim, kind male for daytime meets, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 414809

MATURE male, looking for discreet meetings with female. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 413039

OUTGOING male, seeking attractive female, likes sports, music, cinema and nights out. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 414793

LATE 60's male, fit, 5ft 10ins, GSOH, usual trappings, likes nice restaurants etc, slim, reliable, seeks nice lady for whatever comes. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 414643

GARETH handsome 40's pilot, strong tall build, seeks daytime discreet passion with lady 30-65. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 414421

SINGLE male, early 50's, seeking female for discreet meets, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 414347

39YR old guy, 6ft 2ins, slim-medium build, seeking female for no strings fun. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 414259

LADY companion 60-70 wanted for elderly gent, likes travel with property abroad. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 414133

AMIALE intelligent male, 77, light smoker, seeks slim lady for friendship/companionship. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 413127

FRANK 54, 5ft 10ins, blue eyes, blond hair, smoker, seeking friendship with mature female, 40-60. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 412893

67YR old male, slim, 5ft 5ins, many interests, likes holidays, meals out, seeking slim female 55-65 with GSOH to share TLC. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 414023

BLUE eyed male, fit, toned, likes socialising, travel, OHAC, seeks female, 40-56 for loving, caring relationship. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 413981

CLARE 36yrs successful single mum, independent, employed with OHAC, size 10, green eyes, pretty, likes swimming, family life, seeking male with similar values and interests. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 412053

SHARON 32yrs and still soul searching for Mr Right, I enjoy keeping in shape, caring for people, seeking loving respectful guy who also knows a good time. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 412049

SLIM petite, attractive brunette, 56, British/Russian origin, excellent cook/home maker, seeks cultured male for serious relationship. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 412129

FREYA 33 6ft blonde, loves dancing and have a good time, employed, own home, one son, seeking similar laidback guy/dad for dates, chats and more. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 412045

COMPANY Director, mature, late 50's, seeking female, any age for mutually rewarding friendship, Kent/Surrey area. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 412819

IAN 5ft 11ins, likes rock/roll, singing, making people laugh, nights in someone special. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 412799

WRITER tall, slim, dark hair, generous, seeking broadminded lady for fun times. Any age/status. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 412749

BARRY divorced, 6ft, well built, seeking fun time girl for good times. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 412717

SINGLE young lady, slim-medium build, 24-38 sought by mature male in Canterbury. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 411747

MALE 48, looking for fun loving female to enjoy outdoor activities, nights in and meals out. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 392212

EX headmaster, tall, dark, seeks adventurous lady, status unimportant. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 412263

MALE 49, 5ft 10ins, likes cinema, reading, walks, seeks female in the Thetan area. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 412235

BESIDE the Pointe. Literate self-possessing, leggy, kindred spirit sought by white male for elevating the bar. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 412223

45YR old male, likes poetry, seeks companion for relationship. Herne Bay area. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 411993

CHIPS on the pier, walks on the beach/countryside, VGSOH, 58yrs old, fit male, seeks female for laughs and love and whatever. NE Kent. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 411725



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RAY 63, 5ft 10ins, slim, semi-retired, seeking no strings discreet meets for adult fun. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 411477

WORLD war veteran seeking happy lady with nice conversation in the Kent area. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 411333

PAUL own business, looking for daytime fun with lady. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 411227

DAVE 65, retired, N/S, likes gardening, music, meals out, holidays, seeks female. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 410971

DAVE 62, 5ft 10ins, slim, semi-retired builder, seeks no strings discreet daytime meets for adult fun. Surrey. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 410899

BRIAN 70, Maidstone, seeking female, 60 plus, likes meals out, cinema, theatre, days out and cosy nights in. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 410611

PHIL 6ft, clean shaven, blonde eyes, smart, likes sports, walks, films, theatre, music, animals, GSOH, seeks female, 40-55 for fun and friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 410351

DEREK seeking female, 50-60 for company, friendship and have fun together. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 411433

MALE 49, attractive, fit, spontaneous, good company, no ties, seeking likeminded lady for the road ahead, nights in and out. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 411309

EARLY 50's single male, smoker, seeking likeminded female for company and to share life. Must have GSOH, like animals, walks, home made food and nights in. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 410441

41YR old male, dark hair, 5ft 11ins, easy going, likes music, guitar, seeking female for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 410411

BROWN eyed white mature, handsome male, seeking black female, 18-50 for discreet no strings adult fun. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 410377

RETIRED male, fit, active, seeks no strings discreet meet with female, any age and size. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 410343

ADVENTUROUS male, mid 50's, seeks similar lady for fun and mutually enjoyable discreet relationship. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 410339

CHRIS widower likes DIY, gardening, nights out, rock and roll, N/S, looking for LTR with female. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 410191

ATTRACTIVE white gent, 48, 56ft, romantic, easy going, GSOH, seeking young lady, 60-75 for quality discreet fun times. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 410025

DIVORCED male, seeks Ontario lady, likes animals, music, will take care of you forever. Thetan area, willing to travel. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 409963

MALE likes outdoor life, smoker, seeking local female for cosy nights in. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 410755

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MICHAEL ROSEN.
PICTURE: Goldsmiths
University of London

Book festival aims to be real 'page-turner' of an event

Wide selection of literary events promises to inspire you in the winter months

THIS weekend welcomes the return of the literary extravaganza that is the Folkestone Book Festival.

The festival began on Friday and it will be running until November 23, offering a packed programme including talks, discussions, workshops and films.

Over the years it has showcased a wide variety of events and contributors have included new, established and local authors as well as poets, scientists, politicians and actors.

And this year promises to be no exception.

Michael Rosen was due to begin the proceedings with a talk at the Folkestone Quarterhouse on Friday – the opening night.

Mr Rosen, a former children's laureate and animated performer, believes that learning could and should be more fun and that we are

able to learn by using the world around us.

His talk *Michael Rosen's Good Ideas* explored his ideas on education and how to inspire the next generation.

Over the years the festival has gone from strength to strength, with ticket sales increasing.

Festival curator Geraldine D'Amico said: "I think in terms of ticket sales it has definitely grown and I hope it's because I am getting a better idea of what people want."

"The dream of any festival programme is that people are going to trust your programming, and even if we have invited someone they don't know they will say 'I'll give it a try'."

"I feel there is a really good buzz. People seem to have responded well to the fact that there is a good mix."

This year's festival will host fascinating events that cover a

range of topics including war and education, aiming to spark people's interests and inspire big ideas.

The programme has taken influence from the First World War, and the horrors of conflict have been brought under the spotlight.

Author Cally Row, journalist Clive Aslet and one of Britain's leading military historians Richard Van Emden, are among those who have delved into the issue of war – discussing how it should be remembered and the impact that it has on the world around us.

The festival provides the perfect opportunity for writers and performers who thrive in settings with a more intimate audience, and people are invited to share their views on the issues discussed.

Poet laureate Carol Ann Duffy and writers David Marsh and

Michael Booth are among those who will be speaking.

The festival will also provide contributors with the chance to peruse the Creative Quarter and see what Folkestone has to offer.

Ms D'Amico explained: "It's not just about inviting them to come and talk, it's about showing them what's happening in the town, the art work and the Leas and all of that."

"People have then come back during the year because they want to show it to someone else."

"That's one side of the festival I really enjoy doing, making it both a real experience for the speakers and a way of showcasing the town."

To find out more information about the Folkestone Book Festival or to book tickets, call the box office on 01303 760750 or visit www.folkestonebookfest.com

Meet Santa

Your guide to where to visit Father Christmas in the build up to the festive season

WITHOUT doubt, one of Santa's favourite jobs is to entertain visitors to the East Kent Railway at Eythorne.

He is provided with good grazing for his reindeer and secure parking for his sleigh at Sheperdswell and a most comfortable grotto at Eythorne Station.

A rumour that the grotto in times past was an elephant van has no connection with Santa's surprisingly slim girth.

It's a fact that many children these days are taken everywhere by car and are completely unaware of the comfort

and indeed enjoyment of travel by rail.

So, a trip on the East Kent Railway is a treat even before a meeting with that red-robed gentleman.

Of course a Christmas drink and a mince pie, or two, is a small reward for parents joining in the fun. On top of all that, a carefully selected and labelled present just makes the day.

From Santa's point of view, it is so pleasant to entertain interesting children and there is always the chance someone, old or young, may be brought

to see Father Christmas as a surprise birthday party.

Often a bit overwhelmed by the strangeness of it all, a surprising number of smaller guests have things to say to Santa or give him a reminder of their Christmas present list.

The East Kent Railway is a heritage railway, run entirely by volunteers, which travels the two mile route between Sheperdswell and Eythorne. For details, call 01304 832042 or email enquiries@eastkentrailway.co.uk.



TAKE a tractor sleigh ride to visit Santa in the Vintage Village at Kent Life rural heritage attraction, near Maidstone, every weekend from Saturday, December 6, until Christmas Eve, plus Monday 22 and Tuesday 23.

Tickets to see Santa cost just £5 per child (with a 10 per cent discount for Kent Life members) and include a gift, time with Santa, plus mince pies for mum and dad.

Youngsters will also be able to join Twinkle Toes the elf in a craft activity to 'make and take home'.

Festive weekend fun also includes tractor sleigh rides, animal feeding sessions and the chance to give the smaller animals a hug in Cuddle Corner, while Doty's Tearoom will be serving refreshments.

You can even create your own fabulous festive gift in the paint-a-pot studio.

For a truly unusual gift, why not adopt one of Kent Life's animals or birds for someone special? From Dora the donkey to shire horses, alpacas, Shetland ponies and pigs, there's a furry

or feathered friend to suit everyone.

Admission to Kent Life is £5.55 adults, £4.95 concessions and £4.35 children (under-threes and Kent Life members free). The cost of visiting Santa is not included in the admission price.

Kent Life is closed Christmas Day, Boxing Day and New Year's Day but otherwise is open throughout school Christmas holidays until Sunday, January 4.

Opening hours are 10am to 3pm (last admission 2pm). Visit www.kentlife.org.uk or call 01622 763936.

WITH a little help from the elves, Father Christmas has recreated his magical winter wonderland at the Tenterden Garden Centre and at the Canterbury Garden Centre.

You can visit him every Saturday and Sunday at the Tenterden site in the run up to Christmas, in his elf-built grotto from November 22 to December 21. He'll be ready to welcome children between 10.30am – 4pm.

For just £5 per child you gain entry to our grotto, are guaranteed a gift wrapped present and a ride on our

vintage carousel. You can have a professional photo with Camera Craft by Geoff Partner, as an optional extra.

Visit him at: Tenterden Garden Centre, Appledore Road (B2080), Nr Tenterden, TN30 7HT. Twitter: @TenterdenGCKent. Facebook: TenterdenGardenCentre.

Or find Santa in his largest grotto yet at the Canterbury Garden Centre.

Navigate your way through the forest to meet Father Christmas and if you've been good this year he

might even give you a present.

He'll be appearing courtesy of the Whitstable & Herne Bay Lions every Saturday and Sunday from November 22 to December 21, between 11am and 3pm. The Groves Coffee Shop & Restaurant will be open for those all-important mince pie breaks too.

Visit him at: Canterbury Garden Centre, Canterbury Road (A291), Herne Common, Nr. Herne Bay CT6 7LJ. Twitter: @CanterburyGC1. Facebook: CanterburyGC.



COME and meet Santa at one of Kent's best-loved attractions this Christmas when you take a magical steam train journey on the Kent & East Sussex Railway's popular Santa Specials.

New for 2014 will be later trains for visitors to enjoy the Christmas lights in Tenterden and the beautifully lit stations.

After riding on the carousel, meeting Santa and receiving a present, take the miniature train ride to meet the beautiful Snow Queen for a family photograph to take home.

All prices include an hour and ten minute train ride to meet Santa, a present for each child, and a photograph with the Snow Queen.

Visitors can enjoy unlimited rides on the Victorian carousel.

For travel on Saturday, December 6, and Sunday, December 7, Saturday, December 13, and Sunday, December 14, Saturday, December 20, to Tuesday, December 23, the ticket prices are: Standard Class: £19, First Class: £22.50.

To travel on Wednesday, December 24, Christmas Eve, fares will cost £20

for travel in Standard Class and £23.50 to travel in First Class luxury.

A 10 per cent reduction on tickets will apply for groups of 20 or more on the first weekend.

This event is always popular, and a hit with families of all ages so book early to secure your chosen day of travel.

Call 01580 765155 or visit the attraction's website at www.kesr.org.uk to purchase tickets.

Trains operated from Tenterden Town Station, Station Road, Tenterden, Kent, TN30 6HE.

THERE are few places this Christmas where you can come along and see Father Christmas complete with his real reindeers this festive season.

But at the Reindeer Centre in Pluckley Lane, Bethersden, you can do just that.

So why not come along for a special visit and walk through his magical 150ft animated grotto.

Walk through seven animated festive scenes, including the new Frozen scene and maybe meet Olaf and his many friends. Children will then have their

very own special encounter with Father Christmas in his long cabin alongside some of his trusted reindeer friends.

Every child who pays him a visit receives a quality wrapped present.

And the fun doesn't end there. The large Christmas barn has a host of entertainment, all under cover, and is open every day from November 15.

All the good boys and girls this year will be able to stroke and feed the real reindeer before they help deliver their presents, meet Santa in his grotto and

get their own quality wrapped gift.

You can also meet Santa's elves, smile for your Christmas photo, get free sweeties and play in the play areas.

But there's much more fun to be had for the whole family too, with free mince pies.

So come down, buy a hot drink (you get to keep the special Christmas ceramic mug) and really get into the festive spirit.

For details and how to get there, visit the website www.reindeercentre.co.uk.



Russians swan into town with exciting take on classic ballet

By Maria Chiorando
maria.chiorando@archant.co.uk

THE Russian State Ballet and Opera House bring a new performance of Swan Lake to the Assembly Hall Theatre in Tunbridge Wells.

The story of Swan Lake is woven around two girls, Odette and Odile, who resemble each other so closely they can easily be mistaken for the other. Odette, a princess, is turned into a swan by an evil curse. Prince Siegfried chances upon a flock of swans while out hunting. When one of the swans turns into a beautiful woman he is instantly captivated – will his love prove strong enough to break the evil spell that she is under?

Producer Alexej Ignatow explains what makes his company unique: “We stand out because we pay attention to detail and put a lot of effort into choosing the best artists. I know that there are many companies that come together just to tour in UK, but we only focus on working with established theatres in the Russian Federation. With Russian ballet, you get passion! This year, we have chosen to work with the



PASSION OF THE DANCE: Russian dancers are well-known for their artistry

world famous Russian State Ballet and Opera Theatre of Komi that has delighted audiences since 1958, and are renowned for their ballet and opera masterpieces.

The Russian State Ballet and Opera House was founded to represent quality and passion for ballet and opera at the highest level. We pride ourselves in bringing over from Russia a new theatre company and production

every year, with much that is original to them. That way people get a new experience. Of course, the music is the same but the sets, costumes, artists and staging will be completely different. It will feel like a different show altogether, but still with the same high level of quality.”

Alexej Ignatow added: “We feel that everyone should have the opportunity to enjoy ballet in their

lifetime, which is why we are dedicated to presenting full and positive new productions in regional theatres. We want to give the opportunity to local audiences to experience these classics, give them great pleasure and inspire them to want more.”

■ Swan Lake is at Assembly Hall Theatre, Tunbridge Wells, on Wednesday, 3 December, at 7.30pm. Call 01892 539613.

Drama in Sittingbourne

THE Avenue Theatre in Sittingbourne will be screening period film drama Belle on December 5. The mixed race daughter of a Royal Navy Admiral is raised by her aristocratic great-uncle in 18th century England.



Manfreds in Dartford

TOP British blues/pop-outfit The Manfreds are coming to the south east as part of a UK tour.

Featuring original Manfred Mann members (except for Manfred) Paul Jones, Tom McGuinness, Mike d'Abo, Mike Hugg, Rob Townsend and Marcus Cliffe, they will be performing favourites at the Orchard Theatre in Dartford on November 16.

Festive folkstone tunes

NOSTALGIA Christmas show Remember When returns to Folkestone's Leas Cliff Hall on December 15 at 2.30.

Neil Sands will be singing a host of festive favourites, like Chestnuts Roasting, with other West End performers.



Cult comedy in Maidstone

AWARD-winning comedian Paul Foot will be bringing his cult comedy to Maidstone.

He performs at the Hazlitt Theatre on November 30.

Winner of the BBC New Stand-up Award and the Daily Telegraph Open Mic Award, Mr Foot has created a show called Hovercraft Symphony in Gammon Sharp Major.

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Successful band performs

SUCCESSFUL folk-rock band *Strawbs* were due to perform at The Astor Theatre, Deal last night (November 15).

The unique band consists of members David Cousins, Dave Lambert on lead guitar and Chas Cronk.



Comedy stars due in town

STAR of *Mock the Week*, Stewart Francis, and lead of critically acclaimed BBC4 documentary *How the West Was Lost*, Rich Hall, will be performing at the Theatre Royal, Margate.

Stewart Francis will perform on December 2 at 7.30pm and Rich Hall will take to the stage on February 27 at 7.30pm.

To book, call the box office on 01843 292795

Folkestone gets festive

THE Creative Quarter starts the festive season with choirs, mulled wine and a Christmas market on November 21.

The festivities will begin on The Old High Street at 5.30pm, with shops and galleries staying open until 7pm.



Heston offers foodie tips

MICHELIN-starred Heston Blumenthal attended the opening of Steamer Trading in Bluewater on Wednesday.

The innovative chef signed copies of his latest book of gastronomic history, *Historic Heston*, and took part in a question and answer session, where he shared his tips on how to work with different foods.

ABBA tribute gives a chance to relive magic

By Molly Kersey

molly.kersey@archant.co.uk

FOR one night only, an international ABBA tribute show will be performed in Maidstone giving fans old and new the chance to relive the music of one of the world's most iconic pop groups.

The ABBA REUNION Live in Concert, an evening full of hits comes to the Hazlitt Arts Centre, Maidstone, on November 21.

Now in its tenth year, the show has become recognised as being one of the top authentic ABBA experiences, not to be missed.

The unique sound has been replicated using a six-piece band featuring electric and acoustic guitars, keyboards, piano, drums and bass guitar.

The lyrics and music penned by Benny Andersson and Bjorn Ulvaeus are recreated both visibly and audibly, with a huge focus on 1977 and 1979 concert footage.

They have also included the most famous music video looks, complete with the flamboyant costumes, dance moves of Agnetha and Frida and Benny's original CP80 white Yamaha piano being handcrafted to



look like the original.

With incredible attention to detail resulting in the perfect ABBA look and sound, ABBA REUNION will perform classics including *Dancing Queen*, *Knowing Me, Knowing You* and *Waterloo*.

This year marked the 40th anniversary of the *Waterloo* tour.

ABBA took Europe by storm in 1974 after winning the Eurovision song contest with the classic hit, going on to top the pop charts for more than a decade.

Their much loved songs have

also been featured in some of the most popular films of the past thirty years.

The two-hour spectacular show will give fans the chance to enjoy the sounds that swept the airwaves and discos during the '70s and '80s.

To find out more information about the show, or if you would like to book tickets, please call the Hazlitt Arts Centre box office on 01622 758 611, or alternatively you can visit the website at www.parkwoodtheatres.co.uk.



AUTHENTIC: The ABBA REUNION show is a smash



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Cabaret acts offer twist on Christmas festive fun

An unusual Medway venue is determined to prove that 'great entertainment exists outside London'

FOLLOWING the celebration of a year's anniversary in August, The Cabaret Club returns for a two-day extravaganza to mark the festive season.

Medway's new creative venue, Sun Pier House, will play host to a succession of Christmas Cabaret parties on December 4 and 5.

The Medway evening events boast cabaret, a Grotty Grotto, snacks and treats to tempt taste buds, a vintage photo area with a professional photographer, and music until late.

This Christmas package costs £18 per person.

Performers on December 4 and 5 include an assortment of acts.

These include Dark Sugar, Heather Viggers, Queenie Valentine, Luke Bailey, Missy Maybe, Dee

Riley, Glory Pearl, Jeanie Wishes, The Magic Lantern, Nina LaBelle, Sophie Williams, Johanna Coulson, and Pi the Mime.

Cabaret Club was founded by Lisa Carpendale in 2013.

Ms Carpendale developed a keen interest in the arts from a young age, with her first arts role based at the Royal & Derngate Theatre in Northampton.

She then worked at various arts venues and charities in London for the next 10 years where she developed a love for the burlesque and cabaret scene.

She then moved to Medway and set up The Cabaret Club.

Every Cabaret Club show brings a line up of some of the best cabaret acts.



MISS UMBRELLA: One of the many acts on offer

Guests can always expect a varied selection of singers, musicians, performers, puppeteers, entertaining comics and artists.

Today The Cabaret Club continues to grow.

Founder Ms Carpendale says: "The Cabaret Club has gone from strength to strength, each show has sold out to a rapturous audience."

"We have continually tried to raise the bar, giving our guests the most fun and decadent night out possible."

"The performers and are what make the show."

"We book a mixture of local talent and performers from around the country and the aim is to have fun, take creative risks and prove that great entertainment

exists outside of London.

"Our set design and props are getting more adventurous with each show and we're very lucky to have amazing team of crew and volunteers who help create The Cabaret Club's unique feel."

Any questions regarding booking can be sent to hello@thecabaretclub.co.uk.

■ To purchase tickets for The Cabaret Club Christmas shows, please visit: www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/cabaret-christmas-parties-tickets-12413311549

For further information about The Cabaret Club, find them on Facebook at www.facebook.com/thecabaretclubuk.

They are also on Twitter at www.twitter.com/cabaretclub.co.uk.

For the love of Santa

THOSE who have always wondered about the important Christmas questions – why you never see a Christmas elf, or what exactly happened to Frosty the Snowman, or what Santa Claus loves most in the world will enjoy Santa in Love at The Avenue Theatre in Sittingbourne on December 7.

Contact the box office on 01795 471140 or online at www.avenuetheatre.co.uk. Family ticket available from the box office only.

Chubby Brown tours

ROY Chubby Brown returns with a new show Who Ate All The Pies?

The comic, who has been described as rude, crude and outlandish will be performing at the Theatre Royal in Margate on December 4.

This time, he's turning headlines into punch lines, in a show that people who are 'easily offended' are advised to avoid.

Tickets are available from the website at www.theatreroyalmargate.com/

Otway at The Forum

JOHN Otway is a British singer-songwriter and perennial underdog, with a big fanbase.

For his 50th birthday, in 2002, his fans purchased enough copies of the single Bunsen Burner to get it to No 9. Until then, his only hit single was Really Free, although he also notably recorded the Viz-endorsed single Bags Of Fun With Buster.

He plays at The Forum in Tunbridge Wells on November 29.

Secrets behind Turner

TO coincide with the release of Mike Leigh's biopic of JMW Turner, starring actor Timothy Spall, Turner Contemporary is holding a talk on November 20 which will delve into the making of Mr Turner.

Artist Tim Wright reveals how he taught actor Timothy Spall how to paint as Turner in the two years leading up to the production of the film. Ticket prices are £10 / £8 concessions. Turner Contemporary's café is offering a special talk and dinner ticket.

Here's your chance to snap up free tickets to Bluewater's Festive Gift & Food Fair

SHOPPING complex Bluewater hosts a brand new Christmas shopping event this year – and thanks to one of our top commercial partners, you can be there for free!

The Festive Gift & Food Fair takes place at the Glow venue in Bluewater between November 28 and 30.

Stuck for a gift for Grandad? Do the kids' stockings need a couple of extra bits to finish them off? Maybe you want to impress your Christmas lunch guests with delicious food and drink products they may never have tried, without blowing the budget?

Some of the most unique and great-value gifts, food and drink products to try and buy, from some of the UK's best producers, suppliers and makers that you simply won't find in Bluewater's stores.

With fantastic festive features, entertainment and exclusive show offers available all weekend, it's a Christmas event you can enjoy with friends and the whole family.

You can also visit the Festive Bar – brought to you by Britelite Windows.

And it's thanks to Britelite you could receive two free tickets – and a discount at the bar.

Tickets are limited, so it's a case of first come, first served.

All you have to do to claim your tickets, and for full details of the promotion, is to visit the site www.briteliteticketgiveaway.co.uk/kos.

A pair of tickets would normally cost £16. And every ticket holder through our giveaway will get an exclusive discount on their first drink



at Britelite's Festive Bar, where you can put your feet up and enjoy a well-deserved break while enjoying a glass of champagne, mulled wine or winter Pimms.

Britelite Windows has been installing high-quality uPVC windows, doors and conservatories to the highest possible standards in the south east for 40 years.

Its priority is to put quality and service first. It uses the best materials in all of its products, and its installers are friendly and keen to help.

The Festive Gift & Food Fair features a host of special attractions, including performances on the bandstand, a 'Stocking Filler Alley' and Festive Food Village.



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Precision luxury in the Swiss Alps

TRAVEL REVIEW: Davos

By Jamie Grierson

LEANING my head out of the train window, I take in the fresh mountain air as we glide along the edge of Lake Zurich. The winter sun bounces off the icy water and is framed exquisitely by the snow-topped mountains in the distance.

I'm travelling by train from Zurich airport and after a couple of changes, I'm on the Rhaetian railway to Davos in the largest Swiss canton of Graubunden.

It's the perfect start to a ski holiday.

I haven't been skiing in Switzerland before, so I'm keen to see how it compares with France and the USA. With its world famous designer watches, unattainable bank accounts and uber-strong currency, it's not surprising that Switzerland is much fancier.

From the flat-screen TVs in the bubble lifts, to the succulent wiener-schnitzel in the mountain-side restaurants, the quality of the Swiss ski experience is much more luxurious. But of course, like all things luxurious, you have to pay.

Switzerland is more expensive than France to holiday in, and may even be pricier than the States.

My introduction to the Swiss high life is at the Intercontinental in Davos. The hotel, which opened last December, is shaped like a giant egg and rests on the mountainside above the rather Soviet bloc-looking town of Davos.

The hotel is certainly comfortable, the restaurant menu is first class and the bar is super stylish.

But I have to admit that it's all a bit much for a man of my tastes.

Much more affordable and down-to-earth is the Hotel Wynegg. A modest and fully-restored chalet-style building in the heart of Davos



OFF PISTE: Switzerland offers great skiing terrain as well as five star luxury

Klostern, the hotel oozes Alpine charm and is run by an enthusiastic and unpretentious trio of twenty-somethings, who all grew up in the village.

While affordable and simple, there is nothing rough around the edges about this place; it is stylish, the restaurant serves warming home-cooked food and the rooms combine clean, modern touches with traditional features.

But brushing all the glamour,

wealth and exclusivity aside - what about the skiing?

Our ski guide Andre Kindschi has been all over the world skiing, but the love of his home country Switzerland is infectious. However, despite the large number of runs, the skiing at Davos Klosters lacks a sense of variety and can become quite repetitive.

An hour away on the bus is Lenzerheide, a resort recently linked with another called Arosa. The

brand new lift connecting the two has effectively doubled the access to skiing in the resort.

For someone who loves to get the miles in, covering large swathes of mountain territory, this is much more like it. The skiing is mixed and suitable for all skill levels.

We stay in Priva Lodge, a giant chalet-style hotel with all the luxury trimmings. A relatively new development, it feels a little isolated, but I'm sure this will be corrected in

JAMIE Grierson was a guest of the tourist board. Visit www.graubunden.com

Rooms at the InterContinental Hotel start from £135 per night, including breakfast. Apartments at the PRIVA Alpine Lodge start from £223 per night for a two bedroom property.

Travel from Zurich Airport to Chur by rail using a Swiss Transfer Ticket. First class tickets cost £153 pp and second class tickets cost £96.

time, as new resorts, hotels and chalets spring up around it.

Traditionally, I don't waste any free time on anything but skiing or snowboarding. It seems odd to spend so much money and not use every minute available. But I'm introduced to piste sledging and snowshoeing in Graubunden and I'm pleasantly surprised.

I'm a bit of a thrill-junkie and sledging is fantastic. If you have no fear and keep your feet up, you can really pick up speed. Throw in a few mates - and a few beers - and you have yourself a unique and incredibly fun race.

Snowshoeing, which is not a thrill-ride, is nevertheless fascinating.

Accessing areas of the mountain you can't on skis or a snowboard brings great pleasure, and accompanied by our Swiss guide, who is capable of distinguishing between the snow tracks of a bunny and a squirrel, it's all rather educational.

Although many of the stereotypes about Switzerland being a rich country are true, it also offers some very novel ski experiences.

Even if it's a little bit on the posh side, for five-star ski, it's unbeatable.

Film Reviews by Damon Smith



The Imitation Game
(12A, 114 mins) Thriller/Drama/Romance

THE Imitation Game relives the race to decipher German communications and bring the Second World War to a swift end.

Benedict Cumberbatch plays the socially awkward and homosexual mathematician Alan Turing, who is trying to crack Enigma.

Hugh Alexander (Matthew Goode), John Cairncross (Allen Leech) and Peter Hilton (Matthew Beard) work alongside Turing, but he ploughs his own furrow and raises eyebrows by recruiting Joan Clarke (Keira Knightley).

Cumberbatch is mesmerising, trampling over the egos of fellow code breakers. It's a tour-de-force portrayal, complemented by strong supporting performances from Knightley, Goode et al.

The pivotal 'eureka' moment sets our pulses racing, heightened by Alexandre Desplat's exquisite orchestral score.

Rating 8.5/10

The Drop
(15, 106 mins) Thriller/Romance

THE Drop is blessed with James Gandolfini's final screen performance but it's London-born star Tom Hardy who shines brightest.

Bob Saginowski (Tom) is a softly spoken soul, who tends the neighbourhood bar owned and run by Cousin Marv (Gandolfini).

Bob hears whimpering and discovers a beaten pitbull in a bin who he adopts and calls Rocco.

Soon after, two gun men hold up Marv's bar and steal "five large... and change".

Detectives investigate but after, Chechen thug Chovka (Michael Aronov) arrives with goons in tow, telling Marv and Bob the importance of replacing the stolen cash.



As the dust settles, a criminal low life called Eric Deeds (Matthias Schoenaerts) visits Bob and claims to be Rocco's owner. He threatens to tell the police that Bob mistreated the pitbull unless the bartender pays him 10,000 dollars.

Rating 6/10

Nativity 3: Dude where's my Donkey?
(U, 110 mins) Family/Comedy/Romance

TEACHER Mr Shepherd sustains a swift kick to the head from the school donkey.

FOR some time, environmentalists and horticulturists have been urging gardeners to let their grass grow a bit longer, leave at least one area of their garden 'wild' and create nooks and crannies in the form of log piles to allow wildlife to flourish.

Now, with the recent launch of the government's Bee and Pollinator Strategy – a 10-year plan announced by environment secretary Elizabeth Truss – we can do more to encourage a "flower-rich habitat" to provide more homes for wild honey bees, bumblebees, butterflies and other pollinators.

Scientists warn that British bees are in serious decline with 71 of our wild bee species under threat and more than 20 already extinct. Loss of habitat and forage are the main problems facing wild bees. The strategy is supported by the government's Call to Action – Bees' Needs: Food and a Home, launched earlier this year on www.beesneeds.org.uk, which offers a wealth of tips on how to help these valuable creatures flourish in our gardens.

They advise gardeners to grow more flowers, shrubs and trees that provide nectar and pollen as food for bees and other pollinators throughout the year, like pussy willow, primroses and crocuses in spring, lavenders, meadow cranesbill and ox-eye daisies in summer, ivy and hebes in autumn, and mahonia shrubs and cyclamen in winter.

You should leave patches of land to grow wild with plants like stinging nettles and dandelions to provide



A BEE FEEDS ON NECTAR FROM A FLOWER: Following these steps could help the plight of the much-loved honey bee

Meeting the needs of the bees

other food sources (such as leaves for caterpillars) and breeding places for butterflies and moths and it's a good idea to cut grass less often and ideally remove the cuttings to allow plants to flower and avoid disturbing or destroying nesting or hibernating insects in places like grass margins, bare soil, hedgerows, trees, dead wood or walls.

Gardeners are advised to think

carefully about whether to use pesticides, especially where pollinators are active or nesting or where plants are in flower – only use pesticides if absolutely necessary.

People should understand that the beauty of a flower has nothing to do with its nectar content. Modern plant breeding has tended to value showy flowers more highly than the welfare of the insect world, so the

latest double begonia, or frilly carnation, probably won't attract pollinators.

Double flower varieties have extra petals but produce less pollen and nectar. For example, a study comparing four varieties of dahlia found that the double 'pompom' and 'semi-cactus' varieties were less attractive than open-flowered varieties. Many good nectar plants

have inconspicuous flowers and often old-fashioned ones are the best, but that doesn't mean they have to be boring. Foxgloves, hellebores, wallflowers, red valerian, ice plant and verberna bonariensis all produce loads of nectar, as do many winter-flowering heathers.

It's also important to provide good nectar sources for as much of the year as you can.

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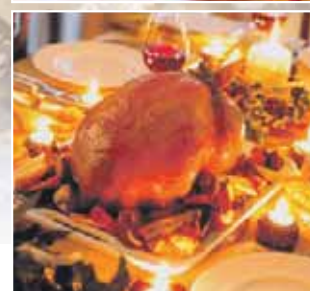
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Please include your name and address, although these will be withheld in exceptional circumstances, and a daytime phone number for verification (this will not be published). We reserve the right to edit all letters.

Pro-fracking duo criticised

HOW ironic that your piece, 'ill-informed' campaigners told water fears from fracking unfounded (KoS, 02.11), should have contained such 'ill informed' statements from Ken Cronin, chief executive of UKOOG, and Gerwyn Williams, CEO of Coastal Oil & Gas Ltd.

UKOOG, the representative body of the UK Onshore and Gas Industry, is fully funded by its members who comprise UK onshore licence holders and operators – such as Mr Williams' own company – but in putting forward a litany of inaccuracies to KoS, neither achieved one of UKOOG's prime objectives: 'To enhance the profile industry'.

After referencing the former coal mining industry in Kent, Mr Williams asked: "...why should any borehole drilled now, with much better technology available, cause a problem for water supplies?".

Surely an extraordinary question to be asked by the man whose company actually withdrew its own applications last November to drill on the old east Kent coalfields, after the Environment Agency warned that it would be minded to object if Coastal Oil & Gas Ltd did not provide information as to how it would protect our precious water resources?

Surely, Mr Williams might have informed himself by now of the importance of the chalk aquifer to this county but it would appear from his comments that he still has not done so.

Indeed, if Mr Williams had the answer to how his company could possibly drill and protect this vital resource, why has he not presented it to the Environment Agency within the last twelve months?

Mr Williams goes on to describe CPRE Kent as being "off their heads if they think that with all that regulation, anything is likely to go wrong", but I would remind him that in spite of "all that regulation", there can only ever be a mitigation of risk from this industry and that on 1 April and May, 27, 2011, two earthquakes resulted from hydraulic fracture treatments at the Preese Hall well in Lancashire, operated by Cuadrilla Resources Ltd, which in turn led to deformation of the well and resulted in the suspension of high volume hydraulic fracturing (HVHF) in this country until very recently.

Ken Cronin's statement that "200 wells have been fracked in the UK to date without any noticeable environment issues" is either extremely disingenuous or evidence of his own misinformation because those 200 fracking operations were NOT related to HVHF for shale but refer to a fairly routine operation that was conducted in conventional wells. This was confirmed by the Department of Energy and Climate Change.

In fact, I would like to invite Mr Cronin to the free public debate on Fracking that is to take place at

LETTER OF THE WEEK



Fracking lobby need to check their facts

MR Gerwyn Williams of COG has been quoted as judging CPRE to be "very ill-informed" with respect to the presence of shale in the East Kent PEDL block (KoS 2.11).

And he goes on to inform us that it was his knowledge of the absence of the Namurian shale which led his company to give back many of the drilling licences.

This leaves us with the question as to why, if the company was so well-informed, in advance of any exploratory drilling, it nevertheless chose to take up the licences in the first place?

He also dismisses CPRE concerns regarding the impact of fracking on the integrity of the chalk aquifer – Kent's major water resource, providing more than 70 per cent of the county's domestic and commercial requirements.

The risk is increased by the presence of a complex of geological faults extending throughout the underlying coal measures; providing pathways for the migration of gases and fracking fluids into the aquifer, and from there into the soils and surface water courses.

Mr Williams quotes a number of authoritative sources supporting the industry view that the regulatory regime would ensure

that "things were unlikely to go wrong", the consensus opinion being that the risks would be small in a properly regulated regime.

This, however, would seem to leave us with two more questions.

Firstly, just how small is this risk and secondly, is the required level of regulation likely to be achieved in every instance?

In the absence of clear answers, we have to assume no fracking operation can be risk-free even with the most stringent controls, and the industry can no longer offer any material benefits from shale gas, or oil development, to set against the threat of groundwater contamination and its consequences for the county's already heavily-stressed balance of water resources.

We also have the contribution from Mr Ken Cronin, of UKOOG, who defends the industry record with the oft-quoted statistic of more than 200 wells fracked in the UK to date "without any noticeable environmental issues". As yet, there has only been one site in the UK, the tests resulted in two magnitude 2.4 earthquakes, resulting in damage to 80 properties

Dr Hilary Newport
 Director, CPRE Kent

Canterbury Christ Church University on November 19 where, from 7.30pm to 9.30pm, and together with Gerwyn Williams, I will be a panel speaker and so hope to correct any further inaccuracies or misinformation about this very important issue. For free tickets: <http://shop.canterbury.ac.uk>.

Julie Wassmer,
 Whitstable

Can you help to find war hero?

I WONDER if your readers can help

us in tracing someone.

I am a recently retired member of staff at the Harvey Grammar School in Folkestone.

A short while ago it came to our attention that an ex-pupil, Flying Officer Philip Burgess was a navigator in 617 Squadron and was killed on the Dambusters Raid.

We wish to commemorate him, not only by adding his name to the school's War Memorial Board, but by hanging a picture of a Lancaster in the school hall.

Philip Burgess was orphaned at the age of four, and fostered by two families in the Folkestone area, attending the Harvey Grammar

between 1936 and 1940 and joined the RAF shortly after his 18th birthday.

Following training and a short spell in No.61 Squadron RAF, he and the crew he flew with were transferred to 617 Squadron.

His was the first aircraft to take off from RAF Scampton on the night of 16th May, 1943. Unfortunately, on the way out they were flying so low that the plane hit high tension cables and crashed. All the crew died.

Philip had a brother Carol who, I believe spent some time in Canada and had a daughter (name unknown). However, we believe that she has been living in the Bromley area and may be the only relative of this brave airman.

We would very much like to find this lady, or any of her descendants, in order to make contact with them and possibly invite them to the school.

If you can be of assistance, we would greatly appreciate it.

Bill Caudwell,
bill_caudwell@hotmail.com

Mayor's thanks for memorial

A VERY sincere thank you from myself and Folkestone Town Council to those townspeople of Folkestone who took part in this year's Remembrance Day ceremony at the War Memorial.

Many thanks to those who planned and assisted with the event on the day, the various musicians, speakers and the veterans, emergency services and young people who paraded.

With the huge support of youth and other organisations, I feel that this year's act of remembrance was once again a fitting tribute to those whom we remember.

Cllr Alan North,
 Worshipful Town Mayor of
 Folkestone

Right for TTIP deal to worry us

I APPLAUD the Kent on Sunday for raising the subject of the free trade deal (KoS 02.11).

Considering the impact it has on democracy, it has received little media attention.

I am particularly concerned about the impact of TTIP on the NHS. There are no plans for the NHS to be exempted and anyway competition law trumps everything else these days, even if it is against the health of the nation.

As TTIP is being considered the gold standard in bilateral trade agreements this bodes very ominously for our NHS.

The NHS has been put in enough danger by the Coalition Government – this might be the final nail in the coffin.

Dr Paul J Hobday,
 PPC for Maidstone and the Weald,
 National Health Action Party.



Mist over Romney Marsh by Mike Francis, Brenzett

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Providing practical support in later life

AS PART of MHA, the national charity providing accommodation, support and care services to 16,000 older people, Folkestone Live at Home is glad to offer practical and social support to older people living in their own homes within the community.

With our range of activities and services, we aim to promote independence and well-being, and tackle loneliness and isolation.

Our members, who range in age from 60 to 96, have told us what a difference Live at Home has made to their lives.

Activities are weekly – our fish and chip lunches are especially popular, and everyone enjoyed a recent trip to the Westwood Cross shopping centre, which some people might have struggled to reach otherwise.

Our befrienders provide company and conversation, and our signposting service assures that if we can't answer your question, we'll find somebody who can.

Coming up soon, we have a number of events planned, including film screenings,



FUN: Enjoy practical and social support in your community

coffee mornings, a Christmas party and a trip to Rochester Christmas market.

We are very grateful to the Roger de Haan Charitable Trust, the Ronald Cruikshank Trust and our national funding, which help us to provide our services at a high quality and excellent value for money.

If you would like to find out more about joining Folkestone Live at Home, or are interested in volunteering – perhaps as a befriender or a driver – we would love to hear from you.

MHA is a charity providing care, accommodation and support services for more than 16,000 older people throughout Britain. Its mission is to improve the quality of life of older people, inspired by Christian concern.

To find out more about the services it provides, contact MHA's Folkestone office at Grace Court, Grace Hill, Folkestone, CT20 1HG. Or call 01303 241 551. Alternatively, email MHA for details on webenquiries@mha.org.uk.



HOME FROM HOME: Basepoint Folkestone offers its clients managed office space

Office space made easy

AN ECONOMIC upturn is being felt at Basepoint Folkestone.

Basepoint Folkestone, which offers business accommodation in offices and workshops is going from strength to strength. It has now been open for nearly 13 years and has given a home to more than 300 businesses over the years.

Supplying business units on an easy-in, easy-out basis, Basepoint has been able to give businesses the option to stay for as long as they like from just one month up to over 12 years, as several

businesses have opted for.

This has allowed the businesses currently at the Business Centre to grow, which has been happening frequently over the last few months, along with brand new companies taking up the offer.

Other services provided at Basepoint are meeting rooms for up to 32 people, on-site café, photocopying, faxing, telephones and fast internet. Everything a business should need without the hassle of dealing with it. Leave that to the management staff!

The centre also provides free networking events for

both their tenants and external companies to promote business and collaboration. The Networking Hub group meet every other month, providing informal networking, lunch and a short presentation on a business topics – all free.

The centre is nearly full, with only two offices currently available, so if you would like to be located at this busy, professional, friendly business centre, call Lorraine or Caroline on 01303 298298 or drop by Monday to Friday to view. Or visit the website www.basepoint.co.uk.



FOLKESTONE LIVE AT HOME SCHEME

Live at home was established in 1989 by MHA, a charity providing care homes, housing and support services for older people throughout Britain. Over 50 Live At Home Schemes now operate across the UK, enabling older people to maintain their independence and live more fulfilled lives. Established nearly 70 years ago, MHA now delivers a range of services to over 16,000 individuals



Live at Home Schemes offer services and support to help older people lead independent, active and fulfilled lives. We aim to help you to maintain your independence while offering opportunities for companionship, trusted support and advice when you need it.

We have services to support you in your home as well as group activities in a place where you can be welcomed and among friends. Above all, you will know that there is always someone to turn to for help, advice or a simple chat.



For just £1 a week, which is less than the cost of a loaf of bread, you will receive:

- A weekly telephone call for general support
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- Quarterly newsletter • Regular visits from a befriender
- Access to a range of support services

You can choose the services which best suit you. Staff and Volunteers will be here to help with questions and concerns. We also offer:

- Men's Club • Fish & Chip Lunches & Film Afternoons • Many more activities and events

There is a charge for these activities and for transport if required. We also have events at different holidays throughout the year

FOLKESTONE LIVE AT HOME SCHEME is run by a Community Service Manager and Co-ordinator.

Our services are provided by a dedicated team of volunteers. New volunteers are always needed to join our team and help with the above activities.

We provide training and support and most of all our volunteers bring new meaning to the phrase "GOOD NEIGHBOURS"

To find out more about MHA's Live At Home Scheme in Folkestone or to become a Volunteer please phone us on:

Telephone: 01303 241551

(if you are met with an answerphone please don't be put off, leave a message and we will call you back)

You can Email us at: scheme.folkestone@mha.org.uk

Our Office Address is: Grace Court, Grace Hill, Folkestone, Kent, CT20 1HG

Feel free to attend an event, then if you are interested you can join free for 1 month



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Perfecting the flow for business success

IN A challenging economic climate, assessment of value has to be a critical part of engaging any contractor for whatever services they offer.

The construction industry is one of the most competitive sectors and any company wishing to succeed in it needs to stand out, demonstrating both an excellent track record and that it is a trusted supplier.

Tommy James Ltd is dedicated to providing the very best service in an open and transparent manner and the investment in achieving ISO 9001 (Quality), BSI ISO 14001 (Environmental) and OHSAS 18001 (Occupational Health Safety) standards very much demonstrates the determination to deliver a service at the highest possible level.

Set up in 1984, the company provides refurbishment, new build and maintenance services across Kent and the south east. Its track record is exemplary with extensive experience in both private and public sectors delivering projects on time and within budget.



WINNERS: Firm picks up certification from Barry McGuigan

In going through the standards process, its consultant, David Hall, managing director of Businessflow, said: "I found a company that was ready willing and able to properly work towards achieving these standards and as part of the process, they have come out fitter and with a genuine objective to be the best at what they do. The implementation programme brings a drive for continuous development and improvement."

The company collected its certificates at the Medway Innovation Centre in Chatham, from former boxing champion, and Kent resident, Barry McGuigan.

Its success in achieving certification to standards is part of the overall picture of what is behind the scenes, a quietly ambitious company setting out to deliver an expert service predominantly to public sector clients including schools, local authorities and service organisations.



HIT: Holiday Extras has won recognition for the way it treats its staff

Ensuring a happy team

HOLIDAY Extras is the UK's number one for pre-booked airport hotels and airport parking, making bookings for more than seven million travellers each year.

Established in 1983, the company has been listed eight times in The Sunday Times 100 Best Companies to Work For and reached number 10 on the list in 2014.

As the business is constantly growing, so is the demand for talented people to join the team. The company is currently looking for software engineers, web developers and business analysts.

Holiday Extras' office, at Newingreen, is a hive of activity every day and to maintain the work-life balance the company offers an innovative "anywhere, anytime" flexible working option alongside plenty of fun events.


The team mission at Holiday Extras is to make travel easy for customers by offering a wide choice of holiday add-ons – including UK airport parking, airport hotels, airport lounges and holiday insurance via a network of partners including Thomas Cook, the AA and

British Airways; and with its own website at www.holidayextras.co.uk.

One of the keys to Holiday Extras' success as an employer is that many managers have started out in the company's contact centre and have gained a good all-round understanding of the business – 23 out of 34 senior managers were promoted from within.


Other benefits include incentives for recommending successful new talent and a quarterly share of the profits.


For more information visit: <http://join.holidayextras.co.uk>





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Swinging Sixties Christmas Party

From £229^{PP} • 3 nights, Friday 28 November, 2014



The Fourmost



Little Miss Sixties



Quote SS11-KOS

Great entertainment, free drinks, free car ferry and a super seaside location make Warner's Norton Grange resort, at Yarmouth on the Isle of Wight, our most popular over-40s private Christmas Party venue ever. In the festive season this cosy resort is especially warm and welcoming. Guests return year after year to enjoy the unique and friendly atmosphere created by the GN team.

INCLUDED: Free Bar from 6pm to midnight every evening for house beers & spirits, wine by the glass, pumped soft drinks & mixers

- Entertainment
- 3 dinners & 3 breakfasts
- 3 nights en-suite chalet - upgrades available
- Car ferry crossing worth £45

**Warner
Norton
Grange
Isle of
Wight**

**FREE
DRINKS
6pm to
Midnight
every night**

**The
Fourmost**

**Little
Miss
Sixties**

**Over 40s
only**

Mamma Mia & Super 70s Carry on New Year Party

From £229^{PP} • 3 nights, Friday 9 January, 2015



Abba Tribute



Rod Stewart Tribute



Elton John Tribute

***FREE
UPGRADE
SAVE £60
PER COUPLE**

Upgrade from chalet to hotel room included while stocks last - call to book

Quote BE1-KOS

Our private party - for over 40s only - extends the New Year festivities and takes us on a trip down memory lane at our favourite Warner hotel. Enjoy a gala New Year's Eve party with countdown to midnight and great entertainment.

INCLUDED: Free Bar from 6pm to midnight every night for house beers & spirits, wine by the glass, pumped soft drinks & mixers

- Entertainment + Panto
- 3 dinners & 3 breakfasts
- 3 nights en-suite **CHALET** - hotel upgrades available with rooms in main building from £259pp - *£229pp when you book by 30 November
- Car ferry crossing worth £45
- Add Come Dancing package with dance tuition, social dancing and a Gala New Year's Eve Ball for just £50pp extra

**Warner
Bembridge
Coast
Isle of Wight**

**FREE
DRINKS
6pm to
Midnight
every night**

**Mamma
Mia the
Movie**

**Abba,
Rod
Stewart &
Elton John
tributes**

**Over 40s
only**

Isle of Wight Come Dancing Party

From £279^{PP} • 3 nights, Friday 9 January, 2015



Quote
BE1-DAN-KOS

Join us at our favourite Warner hotel and enjoy expert ballroom and latin dance tuition - courtesy of *Holiday & Dance*, dance cabaret with 'Still & Sparkling', social dancing, a Gala Dance Ball, a huge dance floor, and reserved tables and seating all exclusively for our dance guests. Plus there's Mamma Mia and 70s-themed entertainment in the show lounge.

INCLUDED: All dance activities and facilities as described

- Free Bar from 6pm to midnight every evening for house beers & spirits, wine by the glass, pumped soft drinks & mixers
- Entertainment
- 3 dinners & 3 breakfasts
- 3 nights en-suite **CHALET** £279pp. Hotel room in main building upgrades: Standard £309pp; Seaview £324pp; Signature £354pp; Royale £369pp
- Car ferry crossing worth £45

**Warner
Bembridge
Isle of Wight**

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every night**

**Ballroom &
Latin Dance
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**8,860 sq ft
dance floor**

**Dance
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Over 40s only

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£109^{PP} • 2 nights half board plus • Friday 16 January, 2015



Extend your New Year celebrations at Bosworth Hall Hotel, in the village of Market Bosworth near Leicester. Our popular private party weekends have become a must-do annual event with guests returning year after year. Set in 11 acres of landscaped gardens, with an indoor pool and gym available for guests' use.

INCLUDED: 2 drinks for the price of 1 from 7pm to 11pm both evenings for house beers & spirits, wine by the glass, pumped soft drinks & mixers

- 2 dinners and 2 breakfasts
- Full programme of live entertainment
- 2 nights sharing an en-suite bedroom with TV & tea/coffee tray

**BUY 1 GET
1 FREE
DRINKS
7pm to 11pm**

**Entertainment
+ A New
Year Party**

**£10^{pp}
Deposit**

Over 40s only

Quote B01-KOS

Worthing Winter Warmer Party - Chatsworth Hotel

£99^{PP} • 2 nights half board plus • Fridays 30 Jan & 6 Feb, 2015



Join us in Worthing for a Winter Warmer Party and enjoy £1 drinks and live entertainment every night. The Chatsworth is one of the finest hotels on the south coast, just a stone's throw from the sea and a short stroll to the town centre. All bedrooms are en-suite and a lift services all floors.

INCLUDED: £1 drinks from 7pm to 10pm both evenings - pint of house beer or small glass of wine

- 2 dinners and 2 breakfasts
- Live nightly entertainment
- 2 nights sharing an en-suite bedroom with TV & free wifi

**£1 Drinks
7pm to 10pm
Each Night**

**Entertainment
Each Night**

**£10^{pp}
Deposit**

**Over 40s
only**

Quote W01-KOS

Bournemouth Spring Party - Suncliff Hotel

£189^{PP} • 4 nights half board plus • Mon 2 March, 2015



Join us for a spring break at one of Bournemouth's premier 3-star hotels, The Suncliff, situated on the resort's prestigious East Cliff within easy walking distance of all its attractions. The Suncliff has an indoor leisure complex with a heated pool, sauna, mini gym and squash courts with viewing gallery (small charge applies). You will also enjoy a 99p bar and live entertainment every evening.

INCLUDED: 99p bar 6-9pm nightly - house beers and spirits, wine by the glass, pumped soft drinks & mixers

- Live nightly entertainment
- 4 breakfasts and 4 dinners
- 4 nights sharing an en-suite bedroom with TV & tea/coffee tray - upgrades available

**99p
Drinks
6pm to 9pm**

**Entertainment
Each Night**

**£10^{pp}
Deposit**

**Over 40s
only**

Quote BM3-KOS

By Steve Loader
editorial@kosmedia.co.uk

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motoring reviews in...

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'500' label turbocharges Fiat brand

FIAT was a dead man walking until it hatched the retro looking 500 in 2007.

Hailed as one of the coolest small cars to own, the three-door 500 was a shot in the arm for the Italian brand.

Fiat followed up by deploying the 500 badge on a successful series of 500L compact people carriers or MPVs.

Viewing it as a stretched 500 might also stretch credulity, but I can't argue with Fiat wanting to sprinkle 500 stardust onto another product, or several, as the standard 500L is already accompanied by the pumped-up Trekking and 'Go Large' MPV seven-seater.

With brilliant inner space engineering married to a compact on-road footprint, any one of them could be just the ticket for 500 fans now in the family way.

And while the pregnant 500L has lost the cheekiness of its hatchback namesake, it retains some 'la dolce vita' through seemingly limitless customisation options.

Likewise Fiat's next application of the 'Cinquecento' label with the arrival of the 500X next spring: a great looking compact SUV/crossover to target the Renault Captur, Nissan Juke and Peugeot 2008, but it will also 'walk the talk' as far as looks are concerned.

MANY FACES:

From cool soft top to rugged hill climber, the Fiat brand is changing.



For the 500X will be sold with no-nonsense front-wheel drive, or with two options for those needing to cater for tougher conditions: Traction Plus-equipped front-wheel drive – already proven to give the 500L Trekking an edge in treacherous or muddy conditions – or 4x4 drive.

Of course, Fiat has an illustrious history of

producing small 4x4s through rugged versions of its little Panda city car, recently adding an ultra-capable Panda 4x4 known as the Panda Cross.

All the kit expected on a big – and expensive – off-roader comes as standard, including full 4x4, electronic stability control, electronic locking differential and hill descent control.

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Fuel consumption: figures shown are based on official EU test figures. These are to be used as a guide for comparative purposes and may not reflect all driving results. Terms and conditions apply. Vehicles shown for illustration purposes only.
All offers apply to vehicles registered between 1st October and 31st December 2014

Outlander PHEV drives the 'Mitsi' revival

Japanese marque Mitsubishi has trashed its typecast image as a 4x4 and pick-up specialist and become more mould-breaking and technology-led with Outlander

FOR years Mitsubishi's UK sales relied on the venerable Shogun off-roader and 'Tonka Toy' L200 pick-up - popular with private buyers as well as builders and farmers.

But the Japanese marque's registrations have leapt more than 60 per cent so far this year and 300 per cent in October. OK, so its UK market share is still less than a half per cent, but growth like that is always welcome and it's all down to the mould-breaking Plug-in Hybrid Electric Vehicle (PHEV) version of its Outlander SUV launched earlier this year.

The hybrid format works better on bigger cars where the extra weight and bulk of two powertrains and a battery pack is more easily absorbed within the overall vehicle.

So, hidden beneath the chunky exterior of this third generation Outlander is no less than 300bhp, comprising a 120bhp 2.0-litre petrol engine and two 80bhp electric motors, each driving a separate axle to enable the PHEV to offer 4x4 if necessary.

But don't get the idea all this combines to endow the PHEV with



CHANGING PERCEPTIONS: The Outlander PHEV has revitalised Mitsubishi's sales and image, right, the PHEV's plug-in power can be topped up at public charging points

phenomenal performance; the petrol unit is mainly used to charge the batteries en route to keep the car rolling in electric vehicle (EV) mode after the car's plug-in charge - good for around 30 miles - has run out.

This set-up avoids the range anxiety of a full electric car, while

fuel costs are virtually zero if you keep the car topped up with electricity.

The PHEV is also road tax exempt due to low emissions while the entry price of just £28,304, after the £5,000 Government plug-in car grant, is the same as the Outlander



diesel equivalent, making it a bargain - particularly for tax-conscious company car user choosers. They will pay just five per cent Benefit in Kind tax - while rivals driving a conventional equivalent could be hit by 25 per cent or more.

And there's no congestion charge

Mitsubishi Outlander PHEV

Price:	from £33,304
Driving appeal:	★★★
Image:	★★★★
Space:	★★★★★
Value:	★★★★★
Running costs:	★★★★★
How green?:	★★★★★
Best rival:	Lexus RX

for London commuters either - you see why Mitsubishi is on a roll.

So what's the catch with the PHEV? Well, the styling of the latest generation Outlander is a slight step backwards from the previous car; less sharply defined and more anonymous, and the PHEV version loses the option to have seven seats - but it has no hybrid rivals offering that either at present.

The Outlander is also set up for comfort rather than a sporting drive, though this should suit most buyers, who will want the car for its impressive people and load-carrying capacity, generous specification, hard-wearing and good quality trimming, 4x4 ability to cover rougher ground without too much jolting and, of course, the economy and tax savings available for such a big car.



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*Free Fuel offer not available on Zafira, Corsa Excite and New Corsa models, other terms, conditions and exclusions apply. £500 inc. VAT Free Fuel will be paid via pre-paid debit card. Purchase only, cannot be used to withdraw cash. Refer to www.vauxhall.co.uk/weekend or contact your local Retailer for details. Participating Retailers only. Offer applies to private individuals. Vauxhall Partners and small businesses 1-24. All other customers are excluded. Offer available on orders between 7 and 17 November 2014, which are then registered by 31 December 2014. #Official EU-regulated test data are provided for comparison purposes and actual performance will depend on driving style, road conditions and other non-technical factors.

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Residential Care Home based in Doddington, Sittingbourne requires a **Wakeful Night Staff** to cover 7 nights per month. Own transport essential due to location of the Home.
For further details please contact Sally Brooks on 01795 886220

Swale ACADEMIES TRUST

The Westlands School Teaching School Alliance

Westlands School, Sittingbourne Community College, Meopham School, The North School, Westlands Primary School, Regis Manor Primary School and South Borough Primary School

School Direct Teacher Training for the 2015/16 Academic Year

Swale Academies Trust, working in partnership with Canterbury Christ Church University, invites high quality graduates interested in a career in teaching to consider the School Direct Training Programme 2015/16. We have places available under both School Direct training routes, some salaried and some which may be eligible for a training bursary or scholarship, subject to status.

Information about training and the application process is available on our website:
www.swaleacademiestrust.org.uk

Swale Academies Trust has an excellent reputation for high quality teacher training within a friendly and supportive environment. Professional help is given to successful applicants to enable them to begin teaching classes at the earliest appropriate time. This is an excellent opportunity to acquire practical teaching experience under the guidance of highly skilled and dedicated professionals. Westlands School, the lead training school, is an outstanding school as recognised by Ofsted and has recently been awarded Teaching School status.

For preliminary enquiries please email the Staff Development Leader at schooldirect@westlands.kent.sch.uk.

Only applications made through UCAS Teacher Training, www.ucas.com/teacher-training will be accepted.

Swale Academies Trust is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment. All staff are subject to an enhanced DBS check.



Swale Academies Trust Company No 7344732 Registered Office: Ashdown House, Johnson Road, Sittingbourne, Kent ME10 1JS



Spencer Private Hospitals are two hospitals situated in East Kent. The larger of the two hospitals is a 22 bed independent hospital situated at the QEOM Hospital in Margate, whilst the second hospital is a 4 bed independent hospital based at the William Harvey Hospital in Ashford. Both hospitals have a reputation for providing excellent medical and surgical facilities supported by Specialist Consultants, Specialist Nurses and Physiotherapists. We have state of the art diagnostic equipment and exceptionally high standards of nursing care.

The continuing growth of our business has resulted in vacancies for the following staff

DEPUTY THEATRE LIAISON MANAGER - MARGATE

Full Time - Hours: 37.5 - Salary: £34K - £38K

- Registered Nurse or Operating Department Practitioner
- Five years relevant experience in Theatre
- Evidence of Continual Professional Development
- Experience of managing a team
- Sound knowledge of Clinical Governance and Risk Management
- A working knowledge of CQC regulations and requirements
- Ability to manage a Theatre department

ENDOSCOPY MANAGER - MARGATE

Full Time (Part Time Considered) - Hours: 37.5
Salary: £30K - £36K pa or pro rata for part-time

- Registered Nurse Part 1 or equivalent ODP qualification
- In depth knowledge of CFPP 01-06
- Knowledge of GRS/JAG Accreditation
- Two years experience in Managerial Endoscopy role
- Skilled in all endoscopy procedures and processes
- A Working knowledge of CQC regulations and requirements

ENDOSCOPY PRACTITIONERS (RGN/ODP) - MARGATE

Full or Part time - Hours: Various - Salary: £25,000 pa or pro rata for part time

We are looking for enthusiastic, experienced, highly motivated endoscopy staff at all levels, with a flexible approach to working. Hours will include evenings and weekends

- Registered Nurse or Operating Department Practitioner
- Relevant experience working in an Endoscopy Unit
- Knowledge of research and evidence-based practice
- Experienced in Recovery and Anaesthetics
- Skilled in scope cleaning and decontamination processes
- Able to assist in therapeutic procedures
- Data collection ICT skills
- Ability to assess, plan and evaluate patient care

To discuss these opportunities, or to arrange an informal visit, please contact:
Vicky Smith, Quality Assurance Lead Nurse on 07477 823969

CLOSING DATE FOR ALL THE ABOVE POSITIONS - 28/11/2014

For a job description and application form please visit www.spencerprivatehospitals.com/careers

Alternatively, please contact Jo Wright, Senior HR Assistant. Telephone: 01304 245961

E-mail: recruitment@spencerhospitals.com

Spencer Private Hospital is an equal opportunity employer.
This position is subject to a Disclosure and Barring check.



"We grow people"

Abbey Court School provides a stimulating, challenging and safe learning environment where pupils and staff efforts, work and achievement are celebrated.

We are currently looking for a Temporary Teacher

for pupils with severe and profound learning difficulties
January to Easter 2015 (options available) MPS/UPS + SEN

Abbey Court School is currently located in pleasant surroundings on 2 sites; Rainham (Nursery & Primary) and Strood (Secondary & Further Education), and caters for pupils aged 3-19 with Severe Learning Difficulties. The school has been judged 'outstanding' in the last 2 Ofsted inspections.

This post would suit newly qualified teachers, or those wishing to gain further experience of SEN. Comprehensive induction and training will be provided. Telephone enquiries and informal visits to the school welcomed

Due to the conditions and complex needs of the pupils at Abbey Court School, continuity and consistency of support is paramount and therefore candidates for all positions will need to commit to the full working hours of the post.

This school is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment. Any offer of appointment for post is subject to a satisfactory Criminal Records Bureau Disclosure.

Closing Date: 28.11.2014

For further details and a job description, please contact Mrs Linda Taylor, Abbey Court School, Rede Court Road, Strood, Kent, ME2 3SP (01634 338236), stating the position for which you are applying.

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We seek to appoint a suitably qualified Science Technician to join our team of staff who are responsible for providing technical support in science subjects (KS3, KS4, A Level, BTEC) and to coordinate the use of practical resources and facilities in the Science Department.

Applicants should have knowledge of COSHH and relevant science qualification. Previous experience of working in a Science department, School or commercial laboratory would be useful.

Duties will include:

- running trials of experiments prior to classes and then demonstrating techniques for experiments;
- preparing equipment and chemicals before lessons - from test tubes to microscopes;
- maintaining and repairing equipment and laboratory apparatus;
- ensuring that equipment is properly cleaned and that chemicals and other materials are appropriately stored;
- ensuring that all health and safety procedures are understood and followed correctly;

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Recruitment packs are available from Westlands School or online (www.swaleacademiestrust.org.uk). Please note, we cannot accept CVs without an application form. Closing date: 26 November 2014 (noon).

Swale Academies Trust is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment. This post is subject to an enhanced DBS check.

Contact Details

Tel: 01795 477475 Fax: 01795 479461

Email swa@westlands.kent.sch.uk

Trust Principal: Mr J Whitcombe MA

Headteacher: Mr S Cox MA

Swale Academies Trust Company No 7344732

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LEGAL AND PUBLIC NOTICES

POLICE AND CRIME COMMISSIONER FOR KENT AND CHIEF CONSTABLE OF KENT

**Audit of Accounts: year ended 31 March 2014
Conclusion of Audit**

**Accounts and Audit (England) Regulations 2011
Regulations 11 and 26**

Audit Commission Act 1998 – Section 14

Notice is given that the audit of accounts of the Police and Crime Commissioner for Kent and the Chief Constable of Kent for the year ended 31 March 2014 has been concluded and an unqualified audit opinion was issued on 10 October 2014.

Section 14 of the Audit Commission Act 1998 provides that any relevant local government elector shall be entitled:

- a) to inspect and make copies of the statement of accounts and any report made to the Police and Crime Commissioner and to the Chief Constable by the Auditors at all reasonable times and without payment
- b) to require a copy of the statement or any report to be delivered to him on payment of a reasonable sum for each copy.

The accounts of the Police and Crime Commissioner and of the Chief Constable are available for inspection between 9.00 am and 4.30 pm on application to the Financial Controller, Kent Police Headquarters, Sutton Road, Maidstone, Kent, Tel: 01622 652758.

The accounts are available to download from the Police and Crime Commissioner's website:

https://www.kent-pcc.gov.uk/extdocs/09Oct2014_GROUP_SofA_Template_2014.pdf

A printed copy of the accounts, along with the external auditor's annual audit letter, is available from the Financial Controller at the above address.

Dated 4th November 2014

Sean Nolan
Chief Finance Officer of the Police & Crime Commissioner
Kent Police Headquarters
Maidstone
Kent ME15 9BZ

Paul Curtis
Chief Finance Officer of the Chief Constable
Kent Police Headquarters
Maidstone
Kent ME15 9BZ

MAIDSTONE BOROUGH COUNCIL

Notice is hereby given, pursuant to Section 123 of the Local Government Act 1972 that the Maidstone Borough Council proposes to dispose of the freehold interest in approximately 16 sq. metres (19 sq. yards) of land at Button Lane, Bearsted.

Further details of this disposal may be obtained from the office of the Head of Finances and Resources, Maidstone Borough Council, Maidstone House, King Street, Maidstone, Kent, ME15 6JQ, where the plan may be inspected during normal office hours.

Objections to this proposal should be sent in writing to the Head of Finances and Resources at the above address, not later than 15th December 2014.

Paul Riley
Head of Finances and Resources
Dated 16th November 2014.

PLANNING



THE TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT PROCEDURE) (ENGLAND) ORDER 2010

The following applications have been submitted for consideration by the Council:

Y14/1228/SH - Ridge Cottage Canterbury Road Etchinghill Folkestone Kent - Reduction in height to 5 metres and reduction of laterals to reshape a storm damaged triple stemmed Field Maple tree situated within a conservation area.

Y14/1063/SH+ - Shinglebay 98 St Leonards Road Hythe Kent CT21 6HE - Erection of a 3 storey block of 6 apartments, following demolition of existing dwelling together associated parking and landscaping.

Y14/1235/SH# - Frostland Farm Newchurch Romney Marsh Kent TN29 0DZ - Listed Building Consent for the erection of new partition walls to form en-suite bathrooms to 1st floor; installation of two windows and replacement of existing window with French doors.

Y14/1226/SH - 112A High Street Hythe Kent CT21 5LE - Works to trees situated within a conservation area comprising: Bay tree (T1) pollard to 5 metres in height and spread of approximately 1 metre, remove epicormic growth at base; Sycamore (T2) crown lift to 5 metres and reduce spread by 2 metres all around; Lime (T3) crown lift to 5 metres, reduce spread by 2 metres all around, thin crown by 25% and cut basal epicormic growth.

Representations can be made in writing either on line on the Council's website, by email to planning@shepway.gov.uk or in writing to the Head of Planning and Environmental Health, Shepway District Council, Civic Centre, Castle Hill Avenue, Folkestone, Kent, CT20 2QY. Please always quote the application reference number. Comments should be made in writing within 21 days from the date of publication. Please note that any representations received will be publicly viewable on the Council's website.

Some applications can be viewed at other locations in addition to the Civic Centre, Folkestone. The applications are marked as follows:

- # - The One Stop Shop, Magpies, Church Approach, New Romney
- + - Hythe Town Council Offices, Stade Street, Hythe

The applications marked (*) do not accord with the provisions of the development plan in force in the area in which the land to which the application relates is situated.

Note: This is not a full list of applications received. All planning applications can be viewed and comments made online at <http://searchplanapps.shepway.gov.uk/online-applications/>.

C Lewis, Head of Planning and Environmental Health
Shepway District Council



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Ashes fever on its way to Canterbury

Spitfire St Lawrence ground to host women's test match



Cricket

By Jamie Weir

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KENT County Cricket Club has had an exciting week, with two big announcements. The first came on Tuesday when the club told fans it was set to play host to the Women's Ashes Kia Test Match next summer.

The test, which will be held at the club's Spitfire Ground in Canterbury, will pit England's women's team against Australia as the centrepiece to the seven-game series. The test match will see the tourists play in Canterbury between August 11 and 14, 2015.

The fixture will form part of an extended Canterbury Cricket Week. It will be the 164th edition of the world's oldest cricket festival, and will see history made as it will be the first women's Test Match to be broadcast live on Sky Sports.

SPITFIRE GROUND: Looking forward to welcoming Australia in the Ashes Test next summer

Pictures: ELLIE HOSKINS

Kent and England women's captain Charlotte Edwards, playing in Australia for Western Fury this winter, said: "It's brilliant news that The Spitfire Ground, St Lawrence, will host the Women's Ashes Kia Test match.

"The Test match has proved instrumental in recent series, so I hope that we can take advantage of the excellent wicket at Canterbury to secure the four points up for grabs.

"It's also brilliant that the match will be played as part of an extended Canterbury Cricket Week, which I am sure will generate great crowds and an exciting atmosphere."

And while the women's Ashes Test will be played at the ground, the club had good news for fans of the men's game too.

England and Kent spin bowler, James Tredwell, announced that he had renewed his contract and will now stay with the club stating that he

was optimistic for the future of Kent.

He said: "I am delighted to secure my future here at Kent.

The Kent native, who was born in Ashford, progressed through the county's age group system before debuting for Kent in 2001.

It's a heritage he's proud of, and one of the primary reasons he wants to stay at the club.

He said: "I have been here all my career and it was great to return after my time away with Sussex this year.

"The future at Kent looks really exciting with lots of home-grown players coming through and I hope to play a part in success going forward.

"Like all the Kentish guys, I am very proud to have come through the system and play for my home county but our ambitions don't stop there.

"It's looking like a very exciting year ahead and I am pleased to have sorted my future."

Kent teams set for FA Cup TV coverage

TWO of Kent's FA Cup teams are set for TV coverage in the second round showdown.

Both Dartford and Dover Athletic will appear on the box after they were picked for BBC's Final Score programme.

Dartford FC, who successfully made it through their first round 4-3 win against Bromley, will take to the field against Bradford City in the second round clash of its FA Cup campaign.

It will be only the second time that Dartford have managed to make it through to the second round of the FA Cup in the last 30 years.

Dover Athletic, fresh from their victory against league side Morecambe, will make the trip to Cheltenham Town to continue their cup dreams.

Both away games will kick off at



TV: Dartford co-chairman Dave Skinner is set to see his team on BBC 2pm on December 7. The clubs will both be paid £12,500 as part of the TV arrangement.

And they aren't the only Kent

clubs to be getting TV coverage.

Maidstone United will have its FA Cup replay against Stevenage aired live on BT Sport. The club, which only took a draw when it faced Stevenage the first time, will be paid £33,750 for the appearance.

The winner of the replay will also make an extra £18,000. The two clubs face off at 7.45pm on November 20.

In an unexpected twist, Maidstone already know who they will face if they are able to make it through the replay against Stevenage.

Should the team be successful, they will move on to a second round draw against Wrexham.

The match would be played at Wrexham's Racecourse ground after the team made it through to the second round with a 3-0 thrashing of Woking.

Sport Shorts

» Email sports@kosmedia.co.uk or call Jamie Weir on 01233 653481

Formula 4 comes to Brands Hatch

THE BRDC Formula 4 Winter Series will be coming to Brands Hatch next weekend (November 22 and 23).

The series will pit a grid of aspiring single seater stars against one another as they take centre stage. With four races in the series remaining, Will Palmer is leading the championship, leading closest rival Gaetano Mauro by 12 points.

The series, which is one of the UK's most competitive single seater championships, has attracted a strong international line up this year with many front-runners going on to become finalists in the prestigious McLaren Autosport BRDC Award. The proving ground series has also seen many go on to race, and win, in Europe.

Both days of the weekend will see one 20 minute qualifying session before racing kicks off with two 20 minute F4 races.

And the series will see the drivers competing for big money too, with a prize fund of £10,000 for the podium finishers. This means that racing looks set to be hard fought and highly competitive.



BRANDS: Welcoming the BRDC Formula 4 Winter Series



PRIESTFIELD: New home for left back Adam Chicksen

New signing boosts Gillingham's defences

IN the wake of their FA Cup defeat, Gillingham have looked to bolster their defences with a new signing in the form of left back Adam Chicksen.

He's been signed to the club on a one month loan deal from Brighton.

He took to the training pitch with his new team for the first time on Friday morning and will be with the squad until its away league game against Doncaster Rovers on December 13.

The 23-year-old will be covering Joe Martin after he was shown the red card in Tuesday's 2-1 victory

over Crawley Town. Martin was given a three match ban, leaving a hole in the Gills defences.

The full back has played for the Seagulls eight times this season, most recently taking part in their 2-0 loss to Tottenham in the Capital One Cup.

He will take to the field for the Gills in the number 28 shirt.

Manager Peter Taylor said: "I'm delighted that Adam has decided to join us on loan. It's great for him to get some games and it's great for us to have such a good player."

Invicta Dynamos take EPL scalp

A HAT-TRICK helped the Invicta Dynamos become the first NIHL club to defeat an EPL side in the English Challenge Cup. The 'Mos overcame the Bracknell Bees, beating them 6-4 at the Silver Blades ice rink in Gillingham.

The Dynamos took the battle to the Bees as soon as the first puck dropped, with a complete

performance from the team, hustling and harrying their opponents. Man of the match awards went to Ivan Antonov of the Bees while Mark Lee took the honours for the Dynamos.

The win came at the perfect time for the 'Mos, who had been trounced in their last game against an EPL club, when they lost 9-1 away to Swindon Wildcats.

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